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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Main Points' of Israel-Jordan Draft Accord Noted

TA1810124294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following are the main points of the draft peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, which was signed yesterday in Amman by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali:

Introduction: Having before their eyes the Washington Declaration of 25 July 1994; and for the purpose of attaining just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; acknowledging the importance of attaining and preserving peace based on liberty, equality, justice, and basic human rights—Israel and Jordan wish to overcome psychological barriers and promote human dignity; reconfirm their adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and their commitment to live in peace with each other and with all other countries, within safe and recognized borders; wish to develop relations of friendliness and cooperation based on the principles of international law; and decide to establish peace between them on the basis of this peace treaty.

Clause 1—Establishing Peace. Peace between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the State of Israel is established starting on the day in which the documents ratifying the peace treaty are exchanged.

Clause 2—General Principles. The parties will recognize and respect the sovereignty, borders, and independence of the other party. The parties will mutually recognize and respect the right to live in peace within safe and recognized borders. The parties will develop friendly relations, good-neighborliness, and cooperation in order to provide security; will refrain from threats on the use of force; and will solve conflicts through peaceful means alone. The parties will respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of every country in the region.

Clause 3—The International Border. The international border between Israel and Jordan will be determined according to the border determined during the [British] Mandate and according to the accompanying appendix. The border is the safe, permanent, and international border between Jordan and Israel, while nothing is determined regarding the territories that fell under the jurisdiction of the Israeli military government in 1967.

The border demarcation will be completed within nine months from the day the agreement is signed. Where the border crosses a river, and the river changes its course, the border will be moved accordingly.

Clause 4—Security. The parties will devote a significant part of their relations to security issues, will work for regional security, and will establish their security relations on the basis of mutual trust, cooperation, and mutual interests. The parties recognize the achievements of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and will work for the establishment of a similar conference in the Middle East. Similarly, they will adopt models of security established in Europe within the framework of the Helsinki Final Act in order to create a region of security and stability.

Both parties undertake to refrain from threats or use of force or of conventional or nonconventional arms against each other, or engaging in other activities that might harm the security of the other party. Both parties will avoid organizing, assisting, or participating in acts, hostile threats, subversion, and violence against the other party. [The parties undertake] to take action to prevent acts of violence, subversion, and belligerence from being conducted against one party from, through, or across the territory of the other party. Territory includes airspace.

In accordance with the peace relations and the efforts to attain regional peace and prevent aggression, the parties undertake to avoid assisting, promoting, or aiding any alliance, organization, or coalition of a military or security nature against the other party. In addition, each party will avoid allowing the entry of military forces that might constitute a threat to the other party into or through its territory. The parties will work to prevent acts of terror or subversion from their territory against the other side and will work to combat terrorism. In addition, the parties will prevent the entry to or presence on their territory of organizations that threaten the security of, or violence against, the other party. The agreement on the establishment of a security liaison apparatus will be signed within three months.

Clause 5—Diplomatic Relations. The parties will establish full diplomatic and consular relations and will exchange resident ambassadors one month after the ratification documents are exchanged. Normal relations will include full economic and cultural relations.

Clause 6—Water. The parties recognize each other's rights on the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers and in the 'Arava basin. The quantities of water will be determined in an appendix. In order to find a solution to the water problem, the parties undertake that their management of water resources will not harm the other party. The parties acknowledge the fact that the water resources are insufficient and that additional sources must be found through regional and international cooperation.

Clause 7—Economy. Economic development and prosperity are the foundation of peace and harmonious relations between countries, peoples, and individuals. The parties underscore their common desire to establish economic cooperation between them. To this end, the parties agree to remove all restrictions or discrimination

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from their normal economic relations, to stop every economic boycott against the other party, and to cooperate toward removing an economic boycott by third parties. The parties acknowledge the principle of free passage of goods and services. The parties will enter negotiations on agreements of economic cooperation that will be completed within six months.

Clause 8—Refugees and Displaced Persons. Recognizing the massive human problems endured by both parties due to the Middle East conflict, the parties will try to facilitate the problems on the bilateral level. Acknowledging the fact that these problems cannot be solved exclusively on the bilateral level, the parties will attempt to act in the appropriate forums: on the displaced persons, in the quadripartite committee with the Palestinians and Egypt; on refugees, in accordance with the activities of the multilateral working team on refugees; and in negotiations in a framework that will be determined—bilateral or other—in accordance and in parallel with the negotiations on the permanent arrangement pertaining to the territories. The parties will promote programs by the United Nations and other international organizations for the refugees and the displaced.

Clause 9—Historical and Religious Sites. Each party will allow free access to sites of religious or historical value. In the same context, and in accordance with the Washington Declaration, Israel respects the historical role of the Hashemite Kingdom in the mosques in Jerusalem. In the discussions on the permanent arrangements, Israel will give high priority to Jordan's historical role in those sites. The parties will promote interreligious relations between the three monotheistic religions.

Clause 10—Culture and Science Relations.

Clause 11—Mutual Understanding and Good-Neighborliness. The parties will work to prevent propaganda which discriminates against the other party and will take legal and administrative steps to prevent such propaganda on the part of organizations and individuals in their territory; to revoke any such discriminatory references through legislation within three months; and will avoid issuing official publications with such propaganda.

Clause 12—Combating Crime and Drugs.

Clause 13—Transportation and Roads. Each party will allow the free movement of civilians and vehicles of the other party on its territory. The parties will not impose customs charges on or restrict free passage between the countries.

Clause 14—Freedom of Naval Transportation and Access to Seaports. Each party recognizes the freedom of access of the other party's ships to territorial waters and will grant them free access to seaports as enjoyed by every other country. The Straits of Tiran and the Gulf of Aqaba are open international water routes.

Clause 15—Civilian Aviation.

Clause 16—Mail and Communications.

Clause 17—Tourism. The tourism agreement will be signed within three months to promote bilateral and third country tourism.

Clause 18—Environment. The parties will cooperate in protecting the environment, including nature preservation and prevention of contamination, as detailed in the appendix.

Clause 19—Energy. The parties will cooperate on energy preservation and the development of projects. The electricity grids will be connected in the Elat-al-'Aqabah area upon signing the treaty.

Clause 20—Development of the Jordan Rift Valley.

Clause 21—Health. The parties will sign an agreement on health cooperation within nine months.

Clause 22—Agriculture.

Clause 23—Al-'Aqabah and Elat. The parties will enter negotiations on an agreement for the joint development of the cities of al-'Aqabah and Elat—including development of joint tourism ventures, common customs zone, free trade zone, air pollution prevention, and more—within one month from the ratification of the agreement.

Clause 24—Claims. A claims committee for the settlement of reciprocal financial claims will be established.

Clause 25—Rights and Duties. The parties will fulfill their commitments within the peace treaty regardless of activities by other parties and bodies which do not coincide with the agreement. There is no contradiction between this agreement and other agreements. The parties undertake to remove all the restricting clauses against the other party which they imposed upon signing international covenants.

Clause 26—Legislation. Legislative amendments necessary for the implementation of the agreement will be completed within three months.

Clause 27—Ratification. The treaty will be ratified by each party as customary. It will go into effect upon the exchange of the ratification documents.

Clause 28—Temporary Arrangements. An appendix will determine temporary arrangements which will be in effect until the various agreements are concluded.

Clause 29—Settlement of Conflicts. Any disagreement regarding the agreement will be settled through negotiations. Unsettled claims will be submitted for conciliation or arbitration.

Clause 30—Registration. The document will be passed to the UN secretary general for registration, according to Article 102 of the UN Charter.

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Arrangements for Signing Agreed

JN1810182594 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held on the Jordanian-Israeli borders today. The meeting brought together the head of the Jordanian side to the armistice committee and an official at the Israeli prime minister's office, as well military officials from both sides.

Our media team in al-'Aqabah reported that the talks addressed the arrangements for signing the peace agreement, slated to be carried out on the Jordanian-Israeli borders on 26 October. The two sides agreed on the venue and arrangements for this event.

Al-Tarawinah, Israeli Cited on Treaty, 'Concerns'

JN1910111494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 94 pp 1, 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad in al-'Aqabah]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After The initialling of the Jordanian-Israeli draft peace treaty in Amman on Monday, delegates from both states returned to the negotiations table here Tuesday to finalise annexes to that treaty as well as set a time schedule for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian territory.

According to Jordanian delegation sources, full implementation of the articles of the peace treaty will be achieved within an "interim period" of nine months.

This will also include the withdrawal which these sources say should begin "within a few weeks" or as soon as land-mined areas along the border are cleared and new barbed wire is placed along the new boundaries.

The draft peace treaty initialled by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin included a "principles introduction document" and 19 annexes which include draft agreements.

Jordanian and Israeli delegates here will be drafting more agreements during these three days of negotiations in al-'Aqabah, which until now are still in the form of "non-papers or memorandums of understanding," chief Jordanian delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah told the JORDAN TIMES.

These new agreements will be included in the treaty to be signed in southern Jordan on Oct. 26.

Although the press has been unable to secure a copy of the draft treaty initialled Monday, Dr. al-Tarawinah told journalist "there were no losers" as a result of the agreement.

A primary concern for Jordan was to reach a peace deal with Israel that would not infringe on its sovereignty, whether in the territorial or security spheres, and which guaranteed Jordan's rights in water and to every inch of territory that was occupied by Israel.

Dr. al-Tarawinah, who touched on the details of the annexes in these three main issues, said that the treaty addressed all of Jordan's demands and more.

On the security agreement, both the Jordanian and Israeli delegates praised the deal as a "balanced security deal."

A senior Israeli security negotiator told the JORDAN TIMES that Israel was looking to defuse a "potentially hostile" Jordan by reaching agreement over security. He said that Israel was nevertheless primarily concerned over "maintaining the stability of the Hashemite Kingdom."

"We have the longest borders with Jordan and in many areas the border was very close to our centres," the Israeli delegate said, without revealing his name.

"When Jordan signs the agreement on security, we will feel secure because we know that Jordan will keep their agreement...for us the Kingdom has a lot of credibility," he said.

Although the details of the security annex were not made public yet, Dr. al-Tarawinah told the JORDAN TIMES that it does not infringe on the Kingdom's "right to self defence as per international agreements in that regard."

"We not only set a precedent on that level which will serve the other tracks of negotiations with Israel; we also protected our Arab and Islamic allies," Dr. al-Tarawinah said.

According to Jordanian delegation sources, one of the sticking points in these negotiations with Israel was "moving away from the precedent of Egypt's security agreement with Israel which placed Israel at an advantage over agreements signed in the Arab League or the joint Arab defence agreements.

"We did not allow for clauses that would have placed the Israeli-Jordanian agreement in precedence over our Arab and Muslim agreements vis-a-vis situations of self-defence," a Jordanian delegate familiar with the security agreement told the JORDAN TIMES.

"It is a balanced security agreement which guaranteed our sovereignty and our right to self-defence," Dr. al-Tarawinah said.

On the land issue, Jordan's partial concession on exchange of territory and leasing out land, according to a senior Jordanian delegate, "affects what amounts to about three per cent of the overall area."

The senior delegate clarified that territories which are affected by the "lease back" deal are farmland "and not populated areas."

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"But these territories have been recognised as Jordanian lands and will be governed by Jordanian laws regarding ownership by foreigners," the senior delegate said.

According to Dr. al-Tarawinah, Jordan was also able to guard against the destabilisation of its economic and monetary interests in areas in the West Bank which are not governed as of yet by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"On the day the agreement was signed we received a letter from Israel that recognised and pledged to protect Jordan's economic and monetary interests in the West Bank," Dr. al-Tarawinah said.

This letter, according to another senior delegate, promises that Israel "will directly consult with Jordan when discussing economic relations with the Palestinians."

It also guarantees that the Kingdom "will be given ample time to finish what it has to do to protect its interests."

According to Dr. al-Tarawinah, Jordan was also able to secure arrangements that "will keep the issue of refugees alive until final status talks."

"We were able to ensure the continued services of UNRWA in Jordan and received a commitment that in the multilaterals on refugees, these services to refugees will be upgraded," Dr. al-Tarawinah said.

"There was also a reiteration of the common agenda article on refugees which says that final status talks will resolve this issue according to international laws," he added.

Cabinet Approves Treaty; Talks With Israel Resume

JN1810143894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] Later today, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali held a press conference on the draft peace treaty. He said the draft treaty clearly includes Jordan's basic legitimate rights in land, water, refugees, security, and economy. He made clear Jordan has not lost even one inch of its land.

In al-'Aqabah, meanwhile, Jordanian and Israeli negotiators met to finalize the peace treaty set to be signed on the 26th of this month. Jordan's chief delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah, his Israeli counterpart Elyaqim Rubinstein, and 14 teams were handling issues ranging from trade and tourism to economic cooperation and security. More from al-'Aqabah with Radio Jordan's Khalid al-Shurman:

[Begin al-Shurman recording] Fol'owing yesterday's initialing of the peace treaty, Jordanian and Israeli negotiators opened their first day of the al-'Aqabah talks with a relaxed mood since all the main principles have been agreed upon. Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, who heads the Jordanian delegation, told Radio Jordan that after the peace treaty is approved by the parliament, committees will need more and more work to finalize formulas of cooperation between Jordan and Israel. Dr. al-Tarawinah said all joint development projects will be implemented only after nine months of exchanging documents, that is, nine months after formally signing a peace treaty between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Head of the Israeli delegation Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein said that meetings of today and the coming two days aim at the preparation of a final peace treaty, basically discussing technical details. Dr. Rubinstein said the treaty of peace sets principles, but the implementation of specific professional agreements must come after that, adding that this involves a lot of work for all the committees and subcommittees. [passage omitted]

As they come in continuity with last week's negotiations in Elat, today's meetings in al-'Aqabah will involve committees on land, borders, security, water, environment, health, and others. They are expected to continue until Thursday when all details will be finalized, setting the main frame for the peace treaty, which will be signed at a common border site next week. [end recording]

First Day of al-'Aqabah Talks Reported

JN1810190794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent Muhammad al-Wakil from al-'Aqabah]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian-Israeli negotiations resumed in al-'Aqabah this morning. The Jordanian side to the talks was headed by Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, while Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein headed the talks for Israel. During today's session, the negotiators discussed the details of the committees' work, as well as a reconfiguration of the working committees in light of the basic agreements reached on the territorial and water issues, and the subsequent initialing of a draft Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement in Amman yesterday.

Jordanian chief delegate Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said: A great deal of work is yet to be completed by the negotiators, particularly with regard to cooperation issues, which are numerous. Dr. al- Tarawinah added that some committees might be asked to address a different set of issues. Clear emphasis will be laid on hammering out bilateral agreements.

For his part, Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, asserted that the subsequent meetings aim to prepare for the signing of the peace treaty in its final form through addressing technical details. He added that the peace agreement has set general principles, and left the discussion of implementation details for the working committees, which are expected to reach specific cooperation agreements.

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A climate of peace prevailed in the current round of talks, particularly in the aftermath of the meeting held yesterday between His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, during which a draft peace treaty was initialed by the prime ministers of the two countries.

The al-'Aqabah talks will address the means to continue the talks in light of the development that has taken place; namely, the initialing of the peace agreement, and arrangements for the Casablanca conference. The subsequent meetings will prepare for signing the peace treaty in its final form through addressing technical details. This is because the peace agreement set general principles. Thus, the working committees will have the chance to address details.

Trilateral Committee Meets

JN1810203894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordanian and Israeli negotiators ended a first day of negotiations in al-'Aqabah aimed at thrashing out some of the technical details of the peace treaty.

Chief delegate Fayiz al-Tarawinah and his Israeli counterpart Elyaqim Rubinstein told reporters that they were discussing such details as demarcation of borders, transportation links, and customs procedures.

Also in al-'Aqabah, the trilateral Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. Economic Committee held a meeting. Dr. al-Tarawinah welcomed the delegates and paid tribute to the U.S. role, which contributed to narrow the gaps between Jordan and Israel to initial their peace accord.

Delegations Comment on Bombing

TA1910095094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0926 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yehudit Zilberstein from the Coral Beach Hotel in al-'Aqabah, Jordan—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We are now at the Coral Beach Hotel in al-'Aqabah, where the Israeli and Jordanian delegations to the peace talks are gathered.

When Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, entered this morning, his face said it all. He told us: This is too much. We always denounce such acts. This is the idea of the entire peace agreement: To ensure security and peace to the two peoples. This is the reaction of the extremists to the peace process. I hope this deed will not affect the peace process. Our agreement is mature enough to survive even such events. I hope the peace we made will prevent such events from recurring in the future.

The members of the Israeli delegation gathered in a special room. Dr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the delegation, opened his remarks by saying: A horrible tragedy happened to us in Tel Aviv. He asked the members of all the delegations to give expression to these feelings in the sessions. Later a special plenary session was called. Dr. Rubinstein opened it by saying.... [report ends abruptly due to poor transmission quality]

Israel-Jordan Border Crossings To Open 'Next Week'

JN1810182894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 18 oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel and Jordan today agreed to allow Israeli citizens to travel through the border points between Jordan and Israel as of the end of next week. This was agreed during the first day of talks in the current session of bilateral negotiations in the Jordanian city of al-'Aqabah today.

In response to a question by Rajih Qaddur, our correspondent in al-'Aqabah, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation, said that he hopes that the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty will pave the way for progress on other tracks of peace negotiations.

'Huge' Tourism Project Agreed

TA1810155994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A huge tourism project is emerging in the 'Arava, between the Dead Sea and Elat, and a memorandum of understanding has already been signed on this matter between entrepreneurs and building contracts close to the Jordanian royal palace and the president of the Building Contractors Association in Israel. Groups of investors from the United States, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Thailand will guarantee the project.

Our economic affairs correspondent Menahem Friedman reports that in the first stage, an artificial lake will be dug and 10,000 hotel rooms, ranging from motels to luxury hotels, will be built. The project, called the City of Peace, will be presented at the Casablanca economic conference and is already assured World Bank aid. Experts assess that 2 million people will visit the project sites annually, starting with the second year of its operation, and that their number will grow as the years go by. At first, $150 million will be invested and an area of 2,000 dunams will be developed. Within 10 years, another 3,000 dunams will be added and the investment will reach $1 billion.

The linkage of the Israeli and Jordanian electricity grids will begin between Elat and al-'Aqabah. 'Adi Amoray, the head of the Israel Electric Corporation's board of directors, said that other countries will join the merged grid in the future and that this will enable Israel to hook up with electricity grids in Africa and Europe.

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Palestinian Negotiator 'Asfur Discusses Cairo Talks

JN1810195994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli talks on elections in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem will resume in Cairo today. The Palestinian and Israeli delegations are expected to start discussion on the nature, structure, powers, and number of members of the council that will be elected.

It is worth noting that the Israeli delegation boycotted the talks last week following the kidnapping of the Israeli soldier Nahshon Wachsman.

Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian negotiating team, discussed this subject in a telephone interview with our colleague Fathi al-Barqawi.

[Begin recording] [Al-Barqawi] Brother Hasan 'Asfur, member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel, hello.

['Asfur] Hello.

[Al-Barqawi] As we know, Israel boycotted the talks after it claimed that the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] was responsible for the kidnapping of soldier Nahshon Wachsman. This claim was shown to be groundless. How would you approach the Israeli delegation over this point?

['Asfur] First, it has been proved that the PLO and the PNA adhere to and are committed to the Declaration of Principles which was signed by the PLO and the Israeli Government. Since it arrived here and assumed powers on the political and security levels, the PNA has done everything possible to preserve the peace process and its continuity and momentum. Before the arrival of the PNA, the Israeli Government used to say that it wanted to wait and see how the PNA would implement [words indistinct] the Declaration of Principles and the peace process.

Regrettably, in certain areas, the Israeli authority is still acting according to this old mentality. The recent operation came to reveal that, in the Israeli mind, the peace process has a limited nature. Israel linked the peace process to the kidnapping of an Israeli soldier.

We reject kidnapping and any acts that do not serve the peace process—at this time in particular—and the Israeli Government should not insist on this logic. If the peace process is threatened by the murder or kidnapping of a soldier or any other person, then we do not think this process will last because such acts may never ever end. If Rabin's government continues to [word indistinct] with this logic, then it better stay where it is, in Tel Aviv, announce to the entire world that Israel no longer needs the peace process, and start playing other games in politics, economy, or [word indistinct] and we will then see what the Israeli people will gain.

[Al-Barqawi] Does this mean that the motive for the suspension of talks was only procrastination and delay?

['Asfur] In a way, it represented an attempt to escape the peace process. It also represented a sentimental reaction that does not agree with the spirit of the peace agreement. Third, it was an attempt to escape the dues that Israel must pay in the West Bank; that is to redeploy its troops and withdraw from the Palestinian cities, villages, and communities. We hope that Israel is not adopting the logic of playing on various Arab tracks. The only party that will lose in such a case will be Israel, and no other.

[Al-Barqawi] The talks will resume, brother Hasan, but from what point?

['Asfur] We will continue the negotiations on the issue of elections. We stopped over certain points, particularly the concept that has been discussed about the nature of the Council and its powers and structure. We think this is a key to the concept of the election process. We will continue to raise the Palestinian argument. We may discuss other elements in our concept and our elections law. We must also raise once again to the Israeli party the need for parallel negotiations in the other committees, which must start meetings very soon. These committees relate to the redeployment, the revision of the military laws and orders, and the transfer of powers. We should not be negotiating only within the framework of the elections committee because this cannot be done in isolation from the other issues.

[Al-Barqawi] We hope the Israelis will not look for another pretext. Thank you brother Hasan 'Asfur. [end recording]

Talks Resume; Differences Noted

NC1910104694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0958 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in connection with the Palestinian legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza were resumed here this morning. The Palestinian side was led by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority. The Israeli side was headed by General Dani Rothschild, general coordinator of occupied territories affairs.

The two sides held a three-hour round of talks yesterday. Sources said the talks were positive and focused on the issue of elections.

During this round of negotiations the two sides will discuss the issue of elections, the number of constituencies required for holding the elections, and the number of the Palestinian legislative council members.

It should be recalled that the two sides differ over the number of the legislative council members, those eligible for candidacy, and the redeployment of the Israeli forces.

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Ministers Address Damascus Declaration Meeting

NC1910120294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—The extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states, held at the invitation of Egypt to discuss developments in the Gulf region, opened at the Foreign Ministry this morning.

Speaking at the beginning of the session, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the delegates would discuss the situation resulting from recent developments on Kuwait's border, the threat demonstrated by the Iraqi troops' movement, and any repercussions. Musa added that Egypt's call to convene this meeting reflects deep feelings. This is because the call responds to events that have cropped up in the Arab arena, events that could have a direct effect on the concept of pan-Arab security as well as security and stability in the Gulf region.

Musa added: We need not emphasize that one of the most important prerequisites for stability, peace, reconstruction and development, and progress for us all is to achieve and safeguard security as well as the factors that influence it, whether within the Arab domain or in its immediate surroundings. Musa pointed out that the repercussions of the August 1990 Gulf crisis, which made fraternal Kuwait suffer and shook the pillars of security and stability in our region, continue to be felt and threaten the outbreak of new crises. It has given rise to developments and concepts that are worth studying, scrutinizing, and handling—out of the sense of responsibility dictated by our rational perception of the reality of our march, he added.

The foreign minister added: On every occasion Egypt has expressed its clear position and its invariable commitment to pan-Arab security in the form of well-defined concepts, most importantly, that security in the Arabian Gulf is part of our concept of Egyptian security. Likewise, our national security could reflect on the security and stability of the Gulf. The same is undoubtedly true for Syria. This highlights the existing partnership between us. There is a need to consolidate it and avoid anything that may weaken it.

Musa added: We acknowledge that some parties outside the Arab domain have interests emanating from various hopes concerning the subject in question and have helped to prevent the situation from worsening. But our Arab capabilities and the need to adapt them to serve the objectives of pan-Arab security in this region, a subject that is much bigger than last week's events, continue to be questioned in the Arab world. This is especially true as experience has proven that there is still an urgent need to come up with a formula that could assure the Arab people that, within this declaration, we have a capability. What is more important is to possess the will to deal jointly and in a coordinated way with events that disturb or threaten Arab security. We fully understand and appreciate current developments and the developments the future may hold. The Arab people are asking. And it is our duty to answer them very frankly and sincerely.

Musa added: Our meeting today gives us a chance to see together what we ought to do about the grave responsibility shouldered by our governments. I hope that during our debate and meetings our contributions will lead us closer to our objectives, God willing.

Concluding his speech, Musa said: I hope we will succeed in our endeavors and achieve what is hoped of this meeting, thus serving the wellbeing of our countries, peoples, and nation, strengthening the Damascus Declaration grouping, and promoting cooperation among its members as a positive contribution at a time when things in the Arab world are shaking heavily.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has praised the honorable position adopted by Egypt and its leadership in the face of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in 1990, a position, he said, that the people of Kuwait will always remember.

Addressing the meeting, Shaykh al-Ahmad added: We are meeting today within the framework of the Damascus Declaration, the objectives of which demonstrate rejection of the Iraqi aggression and define the member states' commitment to inter-Arab pacts. He added: Egypt and Syria have renewed their position again in the face of the recent Iraqi threats against Kuwait. Iraq's threats against Kuwait and the Iraqi troop buildup on the border emphasize that the Iraqi regime is outside international law, he added, noting that Iraq's claim that Kuwait is behind the suffering of the Iraqi people is unfounded. The responsibility of the suffering lies primarily with the Iraqi regime and Kuwait demands Iraq's complete and unconditional commitment to implement all the Security Council resolutions relating to the aggression, he added. The core of these resolutions, he added, lies in Iraq's recognition of Kuwait, its border, and sovereignty coupled with the international guarantees stipulated in Resolution 833 as well as the release of Kuwaiti and other prisoners held in Iraqi jails.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister noted that the position of the Arab states during the recent threat is appreciated by Kuwait, which welcomed the recent Security Council resolution to confront Iraq's attempts to endanger security and stability.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Muhammad Bin-Mubarak, speaking at the opening session, pointed out that the Arab states have rejected Iraq's aggression and sided with the international law that led to the liberation of Kuwait in 1990. He noted that today's meeting, at the invitation of Egypt, demonstrates the principles and objectives on which the Damascus Declaration is based. He stressed that Iraq's recent threat to pan-Arab security and stability in the region was a flagrant violation of

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Security Council resolutions, something that requires us to confront such threats. He noted that events have proved that problems between states cannot be solved by force. The immediate response to Iraq's threat against Kuwait's security has demonstrated the strong cohesiveness of the international community, its rejection of this threat, and our interest in maintaining security and stability both on the regional and international level.

Islamic Affairs

Pan-Arab Conference Issues Recommendations

NC1810145394 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 10

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In its final statement, the Islamic pan-Arab conference [held in Beirut 10-12 October with the participation of prominent Islamic and pan-Arab activists] yesterday called for rejecting the settlement plans offered to end the Arab-Zionist conflict; pursuing the struggle to liberate Palestine, the Golan, and south Lebanon; and supporting the intifadah in Palestine and resistance in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The conferees have decided the following:

1. To reject the settlements proposed to end the Arab-Zionist conflict and close the file on the Palestine question in a manner relinquishing the rights of the Palestinian people and threatening the Arab nation, and to continue the struggle to achieve the goal of liberating Palestine, the Golan, and south Lebanon.

2. To support the mujahid intifadah in Palestine and the valiant resistance in Lebanon.

3. To reject normalization with the Zionist enemy in any form and in every area, and to condemn the steps made to infiltrate the boycott against Israel.

4. To reject any foreign presence and all forms of foreign domination.

5. To pursue the struggle and jihad to achieve the goal of Arab unity, and to work to create practical unity a fact in the greater Arab homeland, reflecting on the daily life of the sons of our nation in terms of residence, work, and movement, within the framework of the "Arab citizenship" principle.

6. To call for a comprehensive Arab reconciliation. It begins with reconciliation between the Arab governments and their peoples before moving directly to activate and revive the institutions of common Arab action, which constitute the backbone of the Arab order against the domination schemes that target the Arab countries as much as they target the nation. This should be done with a view toward realizing the goal of Arab unity.

7. To demand an immediate, full, and unconditional removal of the embargo against Iraq; to call on the Arab League and all Arab governments to engage in Arab and international efforts to end the blockade, open Arab borders with Iraq, provide the Iraqi people with all the food and medicine they need until the blockade is fully lifted, and work to restore Iraq to the Arab nation so that it can play its pan-Arab role; and also to demand lifting blockades on other Arab countries, notably Libya and Sudan.

8. To call on the Iraqi Government to work to find a final solution to the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing people.

9. To adhere to national unity in the face of all attempts of fragmentation and division, and to adopt shura as a method of exchanging views and determining actions, a pluralistic basis, democracy as a mechanism of political action, and dialogue as a means of managing political differences.

10. To emphasize the right of all political forces to exercise public work within a constitutional and legal framework.

11. To condemn every violation of freedom and human rights and to work to abolish all extraordinary laws in the Arab world and emphasize the need to release political prisoners and facilitate the return of exiles, expatriates, persons who have been kidnapped, and mujahidin.

12. To raise the issue of civilians and administrative detainees in Israeli jails before the world and to expose racist Zionist practices, inviting human right activists to contribute to this effort.

13. To emphasize the danger of privatization and termination of the state's role in ensuring domestic development and the danger of surrendering to the policy of international economic and financial institutions, considering these policies to be aspects of the subservience toward which our nation is being pushed; to call the attention of the public and the decisionmakers in the Arab world to the threat which the Middle Eastern market and order poses to all aspects of Arab life and to Arab economies, and to mobilize Arab capabilities to render the Arab common market a success.

14. To denounce the genocidal campaigns against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to stress that people's right to self-defense and to have the arms embargo against them lifted.

15. To work to strengthen relations between the Arab nation and the peoples of the Arab-Islamic cultural circle due to the fact that the Arab upsurge and the upsurge of the Islamic world are complementary; and to call for mobilizing our Arab and Islamic energies to continue our cultural renewal and to contribute to the construction of our world. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Bombing of Tel Aviv Bus Reported, Denounced

Called 'Heroic Operation'

JN1910101694 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0933 GMT 19 Oct 94

[From the "News Headlines"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] A new heroic operation burns the earth under the feet of the Zionist invaders. An explosive charge was detonated in a Zionist enemy bus in downtown Tel Aviv this morning. Our heroic correspondents have furnished us with the latest news of the martyrdom operation in downtown Tel Aviv.

The heroic martyrdom operation took place at about 1030 [0830 GMT] near the enemy war ministry building in the heart of Tel Aviv. Our correspondents say the perpetrator of the bold operation was martyred. No details are yet available on the way the operation was carried out. However, it is likely that the martyr carried out the operation on the bus as was the case with the 'Afula and al-Khudayrah [Hadera] operations.

The Zionist enemy troops sealed off all main and side roads leading to Tel Aviv. They are currently arresting our kinsfolk. A state of great tension prevails in the entire area. The enemy is fumbling in panic and in its confessions about the number of casualties among the Zionist enemy soldiers. The enemy continues to retrieve the Zionist corpses from the street. The latest Zionist enemy confessions confirm the death of at least 15 Zionists and the injury of about 32 Zionists, 10 in serious condition, in the heroic operation of blowing up the Zionist bus.

A source, speaking on condition of anonymity, contacted al-Quds Radio to say that the Tall al-Rabi' [Tel Aviv] operation is only a message to those who sign papers selling or leasing homelands.

Attacks Urged 'as Far as Washington'

TA1910134794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announcements assume responsibility for the terror attack in Tel Aviv. Palestinian sources report that a masked man announced over a loudspeaker in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood mosque that 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, the Hamas military arm, is responsible for the attack. He stated the attack comes in retaliation for the Israel-Jordan peace agreement and the detention of Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip.

This morning, the Hamas movement distributed a leaflet in the Gaza Strip in which it calls on all 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads to escalate their activity against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units wherever they are: in Gaza, the West Bank, or Jerusalem, and even as far as Washington. The leaflet calls on all 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam forces not to cooperate when the Palestinian police attempt to detain them. The leaflet states that the Palestinian police are part of the occupation and are responsible for the Bi'r Nabala operation.

The leaflet goes on to state: We hereby inform the Palestinian police that we have a full list of the names of collaborators and traitors working for the Palestinian Authority [PA], including several senior PA leaders, and we have the evidence necessary to prove this. Our silence after the activists were arrested was the silence of the wise, not that of cowards. The Palestinian occupation rule in the Gaza Strip—this is how the leaflet describes the PA—is similar to General Lahd's SLA [South Lebanese Army]: an army of traitors and spies who forcibly extracted information from several journalists to get them to divulge the location of Nahshon Wachsman's kidnappers. According to the leaflet, Yitzhaq Rabin even said as much in his news conference after the Bi'r Nabala operation.

On the other hand, Faysal al-Husayni's Orient House has issued a public statement denouncing the terror attack in Tel Aviv, adding that the peace process must be pursued vigorously.

'Arafat Offers To Help Find Attackers

TA1910121494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has said that the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv was perpetrated by extremists—enemies of peace—who receive instructions, training, and funds from known elements overseas. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that 'Arafat was referring to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] headquarters in Jordan and to Iran. In a statement he issued, 'Arafat denounced the attack and sent his condolences to the relatives of the families on his behalf and on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in a phone conversation with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, 'Arafat said that he is willing and prepared to help track down the perpetrators of the attack.

Al-Tibi Voices 'Shock, Astonishment'

TA1910083894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0824 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have received the first Palestinian reaction: Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser, has expressed shock and astonishment about the appalling terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. Hurting innocent people is terrible and deplorable, he said. Dr. al-Tibi expressed his sorrow for the fatalities and wished a speedy recovery to the wounded.

'Abd-Rabbuh, Sha'th Condemn Attack

TA1910101794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0928 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is the first official reaction by the Palestinian Authority [PA] to this morning's

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terrorist attack. Several minutes ago, we spoke with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh who is in charge of the PA's information portfolio. Here are his remarks in English.

[Begin recording] ['Abd-Rabbuh, in English] It is a horrible action and we denounce it completely and we consider that this crime is against the relations between the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. We believe that it is an attempt to explode not only the innocent people but the peace process as a whole and we express our sorrow and our condolences to all those who are victims and their families. And I believe that the PA is completely interested to put an end to such horrible crimes. The answer we believe to such incidents is to continue in our process and to implement it on the ground and this will enable us to control and to put an end to such incidents and such crimes. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0943 GMT on 19 October carries a live telephone interview in English with Dr. Nabil Sha'th by Qobi Meydan. When asked to comment about this morning's events in Tel Aviv, Sha'th replies: "Well, with the little information I have it looks like a very tragic event. An event not only of great violence but of violence addressed to innocent civilians in the heart of a busy street in a busy city. This gets nothing but my bitterness and condemnation." When asked whether he feels that Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, is the PA's enemy as well as Israel's foe, Sha'th replies: "Anything that destroys the peace process is the enemy of peace. Anything that violates the agreement produces nothing but destruction of all our hopes, and we would like to see all violence stopped and real progress achieved in the process of peace." Later on in the report, Meydan asks Sha'th whether the PA should continue its efforts to stop Hamas, Sha'th says: "Yes, we will do everything possible. We will need information. We will do everything possible to stop the violence but this is a development that we do not have the details and I think this all will be studied by our leaders."]

Sha'th Welcomes Jordanian-Israeli Peace Agreement

JN1810194594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A ranking [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] official has welcomed the announcement of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. However, he said that the PNA has not yet studied the details of the treaty that was initialed in Amman yesterday.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, PNA minister of international cooperation, said: We welcome the expansion of the peace process to comprise all the Arab region. He added: We hope that Syria and Lebanon will do the same. He said that there are parts of the agreement that have to do with the Palestinian arena and the PNA must study them for its negotiations with Israel and Jordan.

Sha'th urged Israel to expedite the negotiations with the Palestinian side concerning the expansion of the scope of self-rule in the occupied territories, and said he is surprised that time is being lost within the framework of the most important track, the Palestinian-Israeli peace track.

Habash Urges Masses To Punish 'Arafat, Husayn

NC1910082694 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Text] Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has announced that all those who have fallen in step with the U.S.-Zionist scheme are the enemies of the masses and the Arab-Islamic cause.

In an interview with our radio, Habash called on the masses to take to task traitors like Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn just as the Egyptian masses punished the traitor Anwar al-Sadat.

Habash declared that the PFLP is seeking to combine its efforts with those of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and all other groups opposed to a political settlement.

He pointed out that the coming stage will be much more difficult than the current stage but asserted that the justness of the cause and the will of the masses will ensure ultimate victory.

Treaty's Jerusalem Clause Said 'Blatant Violation'

JN1810203394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Palestinian spokesman today issued the following the statement:

What has been leaked from the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel and the statements made today by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres—statements that clearly expose some aspects of this treaty—show the seriousness of what was agreed on, particularly regarding the holy city of Jerusalem and the Islamic holy places and awqaf [Islamic endowments] in the city.

What has been published so far is considered a blatant violation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP], which was signed between the PLO and the Government of Israel, as well as the exchanged letters between the two parties regarding the holy city of Jerusalem and the Christian and Islamic holy places in it. The DOP stipulates that the final status of the city will be discussed by the two parties as soon as possible, not later than the beginning of the third year after the signing of the DOP.

The treaty also conflicts with UN and Security Council resolutions, including Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as the more recent Resolution 904, which refers to all occupied Palestinian territory, including the city of

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Jerusalem. It also conflicts with the resolutions adopted by the consecutive Islamic and Arab conferences.

The treaty also constitutes an attempt to impose the status quo of the Israeli occupation on the holy city of Jerusalem and its Christian and Islamic holy places under the cover of the Jordanian- Israeli accord. This takes place amid the serious expansion of settlements in the holy city and its surroundings, thereby violating the ratified agreements, the international resolutions related to the holy city of Jerusalem, and the Geneva Conventions.

Al-Husayni on Right to Jerusalem

JN1810211794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Report by Basim Abu-Sumayyah from the "occupied Palestinian territories"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has stated that the issue of Islamic shrines in Jerusalem is a Palestinian issue. In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo commenting on Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres statements that Islamic shrines in Jerusalem will be under Jordan's supervision, Faysal al-Husayni said that neither Peres nor any one else can alter the Palestinans right to their land. He added: I do not see any reason why anyone from the Israeli side would decide who will be given and who will not. The best thing that Israel can do is to stand aside on this issue.

Al-Husayni said: This issue is a Palestinian-Jordanian issue and will be settled with Jordan and not with Israel. Al-Husayni said: With respect to the final solution to the Jerusalem issue, the city with all that it comprises is Palestinian and this is not a Palestinian demand for Peres to accept or reject but a right that was acknowledged by the international resolutions. The peace process cannot be partitioned but is an indivisible whole and those who want a comprehensive peace should approach the issue on this basis. [passage omitted]

'Arafat: Mufti 'Palestinian Affair'

JN1910064794 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, has stated that the appointment of the Jerusalem mufti is a Palestinian affair. He emphasized that no party has the right to interfere in Palestinian domestic affairs. 'Arafat said this at a news conference he held yesterday following his meeting with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino.

'Urayqat Denies Opposition Banned From Elections

JN1910092594 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations, by correspondent Ahmad Zaki on 19 October; place not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in Cairo, good morning. What topics were discussed during yesterday's session in Cairo?

['Urayqat] We explained our concept on the configuration of the council that will be elected. We submitted our concept on the basis of the election of a council that has both executive and legislative prerogatives. The council will be comprised of 100 members. Elections will be free, direct, and general and all the sons of the Palestinian people will participate without any exceptions based on political or ideological considerations.

The Israeli delegation put forth several questions on the nature of the relationship and the prerogatives of the executive and legislative sides. We promised to reply to these questions.

[Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, AFP mentioned that the Israeli delegation has set as a condition that opposition not be allowed to participate in the legislative elections.

['Urayqat] Actually, the Israeli delegation raised this issue at the first session, three weeks ago. We replied in writing to this issue at that time by rejecting any conditions. Yesterday, one of the members of the Palestinian delegation was cited as saying that we accepted such a condition. This is completely unfounded. We submitted our stand to the Israeli delegation in writing. We announced it. It is really a mockery that certain people vie with one another to accuse this delegation without even asking it whether the issue is true or not. Such a report is not true. The denial was made to the same news agency, but, regrettably, the denial was not reported. The issue was not discussed at all yesterday. The session began at 1500 yesterday, and this report was disseminated by the news agency at 1200, that is before we even arrived in Cairo. Such reports seek to harm the Palestinian delegation. We told the Israeli delegation that it is impossible to exclude any Palestinian, whether as an individual, group, or faction on the basis of political ideologies or stands. We said that every Palestinian 18 years of age on the date of the elections and who meets the requirements set in the Palestinian election law dealing with the absence infractions, misdemeanors, or mental instability can vote and if he is 30 years old can run for the elections if he meets the other requirements of the Palestinian election law. No one will be banned for political ideologies. We also told the Israeli delegation that the mere mention of such topics is a violation of the basic rules of democracy. That's why we say that what

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the news agencies have reported is unfounded. It is a mockery that such reports are published even before our arrival in Cairo. It is also a mockery that people vie with one another to hignlight such reports.

[Zaki] The news agency also reported that the Palestinians have agreed too on Israel's supervision of the elections. According to you, this also is false?

['Urayqat] This has not taken place. We rejected any matter having to do with supervision. The Israeli delegation did not propose Israeli supervision. It proposed the agreed supervision. We told them that there will be a Palestinian central committee for elections and that the Palestinian voters and candidates and the Palestinian people can lodge complaints with the central committee. If they are not satisfied with its decision they can go to the nearest first instance court in the area in which they live. The idea of agreed supervision was also rejected in the previous session in writing. What I want to say here is that these reports were disseminated by AFP. We met with the agency and denied its reports two hours before we arrived in Cairo. The session yesterday began at 1500 but the reports were disseminated before our arrival in Cairo.

[Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, do you expect elections to be held soon?

['Urayqat] We are exerting every possible effort to get an important principle settled, that of reaching agreement on the configuration [of the council] before starting to discuss the other topics having to do with international monitoring, agreed supervision, and other topics. We must reach agreement on the council that will be elected.

[Zaki] Dr. Sa'ib, how do you assess yesterday's session between the Palestinian and Israeli sides?

['Urayqat] The session was a serious one during which we frankly exchanged viewpoints. We submitted our stand on the council and its configuration. They submitted several questions. What is important is that there is a desire to reach agreement on the concept and configuration before discussing the other issues.

[Zaki] We thank Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations.

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Algeria

Aziza Meets U.S., World Bank, IMF Officials

LD1810161894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Sassi Aziza, commerce minister, who arrived the day before yesterday in Washington on a working visit, yesterday held talks with the U.S. deputy commerce secretary and the deputy agriculture secretary.

The talks particularly dealt with trade and financial exchanges, and the prospects of consolidating the exchanges in the light of liberalizing Algeria's external trade.

The commerce minister also met the World Bank deputy president and the director of the Middle East department at the IMF, where he discussed the way for implementing the program with the two institutions in the fields connected with internal and external trade.

The commerce minister will today go to Ohio as head of the Algerian delegation that is participating in the meeting of the UN Symposium for Trade and Development.

APUA Says Clinton 'Favoring Fundamentalists'

BR1810145694 Madrid ABC in Spanish 17 Oct 94 p 39

[Report on interview with El Mahdi Abas Allalu, chairman of the People's Association for Unity and Action by Dolores Martinez; place and date not given: "If Zerual Starts Talks With the FIS, He Will Lose the Support of the Democrats and the Army"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—El Mahdi Abas Allalu, who is the chairman of the People's Association for Unity and Action (APUA)—a party forming part of the Algerian National Transition Council—told ABC that, if (Algerian) President Liamin Zerual starts talks with the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), "he will lose the support of the democratic parties and the Army."

Just as emphatically, he accused Clinton's policies of favoring fundamentalists. In an interview with ABC, Abas Allalu, who is temporarily residing in Spain after being targeted by an attempt carried out by Islamic fundamentalists, expressed his full support for the interruption of the electoral process in January 1992, following the victory achieved by the Islamic Salvation Front one month earlier in the first round of the general elections. "I agreed with interrupting the elections, because the latter were neither free nor fair. This was not—as it was believed in the rest of the world—a coup. Let us not forget that the fundamentalists' position is completely anachronistic: Algeria cannot live in the late 20th century as though we were still in the Middle Ages. They do not accept democracy because, in their opinion, democracy is tantamount to atheism."

Despite his support for the interruption of the electoral process, the chairman of the APUA—which has four representatives in the Algerian National Transition Council—does not fully back the actions of the military government "because we know that there can be no democracy with the Army in power. We are only accepting this situation because it is a transitional development, and because we hope that, in the three years left before new elections are held, we can pave the way for a genuinely pluralist ballot. At present, we democrats must support the Army for the sole purpose of rebuilding our country and transforming Algeria into a modern country open to scientific progress."

With a "yes" and a "no," Abas Allalu expressed his views on the opening of negotiations with the FIS. "I am in favor of dialog because I am a democrat, and I am against because Islamic fundamentalists want to seize power by means of a holy war, and this is not the way forward. They assassinate democrats, girls who do not wear a veil, women, intellectuals... The entire Algerian intelligentsia is threatened by them. How can you speak to people who hold machine-guns in their hands? It is them who do not want to have a dialogue—and dialogue is precisely the main weapon available to democrats."

In Abas Allalu's view, the FIS is "an ogre, an unorganized group made up of murderers carrying out destabilizing operations. If elections were held now, the FIS would not even achieve 10 percent of the share of the vote which it won in the December 1991 elections.

Terrorism kills a party, and the terrorist actions that are being carried out by this group are making it lose support among the people. If people vote for the FIS it is out of fear, this much is beyond doubt. If the Algerian people voted for this group it was not because they wanted an Islamic republic for our country, but rather, because they wanted to change the system; it was a punitive vote. Besides, it is impossible for Algeria to become a fundamentalist nation like Iran or Sudan. No Khomeini will emerge in Algeria."

Abas Allalu was cautious in giving his opinion of President Liamin Zerual, although he stated emphatically that "if he starts talks with the fundamentalists he will lose the support of both the democratic parties and the Army. Starting negotiations with people who say that when they seize power they will kill all democrats is not something we can endorse."

The APUA's chairman did not hesitate to affirm that fundamentalism is a serious threat to Europe, and he severely criticized the US Administration's position on the Algerian conflict.

"Washington, where the FIS has a representation, is supporting the fundamentalists because it wants Europe to have a time-bomb near its borders so as to prevent it from becoming a serious competitor. President Clinton is not familiar with the Algerian issue, this is why his policies have always been mistaken. It is a rather striking

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fact that North Americans living in Algeria have not experienced any problems."

Cabinet Adopts 1995 Draft Budget

LD1810225294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today in which it adopted the new draft budget, and discussed a draft decree which defines the contribution and services of social security. Saliha Bahri reports:

[Bahri] Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, the council of ministers held a meeting today in which it adopted the draft budget for 1995 which was completed on the basis of the directives given at the Council of Ministers held on 5 October 1994, which were discussed at the meeting. The draft budget for 1995 includes in its taxation section a range of measures aimed basically at furthering production and service sectors; backing the activities which contribute to increased social and economic development in the provinces of the south; strengthening social protection for the handicapped, those injured in the liberation war, and those who have right to protection; continuing the implementation of the program for economic stability; and reorganizing the tax and excise rules with the aim of alleviating and simplifying them. As for the part concerning the budget itself, the measures taken seek the improvement of domestic financial balances while signficantly maintaining state assistance in the social security network and the price subsidization for widely-consumed goods. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Defends Third World Interests

LD1910095894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In his intervention before the participants in the public session of the UN General Assembly's 49th session, Ramtane Lamanra, Algeria's permanent envoy at the United Nations, stressed that the ideal formula for restructuring the Security Council could not be obtained without an international consensus, the aim of which should not be to marginalize developing countries, which neither participated in the creation of the United Nations, nor in preparing its Charter. The details are with Nabila Khreifiya:

[Khreifiya] The Algerian envoy pointed out that at the methodological level, and for the sake of achieving a comprehensive effort, the Algerian idea was based on two axioms. The first was represented by the unjust nature of the current formation of the Security Council and its geographical and civilizational imbalance. In addition to that, Lamamra said that from the numerical point of view, the organization did not reflect its current formation, since the number of those that have joined has increased over the past years.

The second was connected with the atmosphere resulting from the ending of the cold war, which raised the hope and aspirations of the international community in setting up a new world order based on the law and the entrenchment of democracy, participation, and unanimity as a formula for work, and adopting decisions which were reflected on the process and the methodology of work procedures at the UN Security Council.

In this context, Lamanra concentrated on correcting the current imbalance, and on the need to work in accordance with the qualities announced in the Charter, taking regional organizations into account, such as the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League, when adopting any attempt aimed at establishing regional balances, and consecrating the principle of power sharing in exercising responsibility since all states are sovereign.

Press Strikes in Protest of Violence

LD1810160394 Rabat MAP in English 1334 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, Oct. 18 (MAP)—Many Algerian dailies will go on a three-day strike as of Wednesday [18 October] to protest the violence acts directed against Algerian newsmen since May 1993.

Some 20 newsmen were killed and 200 others were forced to exile in view of the violence the Maghreban country is plunged into, an Algerian daily said. The Algerian armed groups have repeatedly issued death threats against newsmen, many of whom were compelled to go underground, constantly changing their place of residence in quest of security.

EL HAYET To Join Strike

LD1810210994 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arabic-language [weekly magazine] EL HAYET announced its decision to join the three-day strike. Six national newspapers decided to stage a strike in protest against the indecency of crime. The strike is considered a call for citizens and democratic forces to understand the extent of danger journalists are experiencing.

Algiers Airport Strike Called Off

LD1810202394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The strike at Algiers airport has been called off. The trade union council of the airport management services, the EGSA [Etablissement de Gestion des Services Aeroportuaires] of Algiers, which manages 17 airports of the central region of the country, has finally decided to suspend its two-day strike that started this morning.

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Sidi Said, the union's number two, was given guarantees by the prime minister that the company restructuring plan will be frozen. This plan was unilaterally prepared by the Ministry of Transport, according to the trade union. [passage omitted]

Moroccan 'Terrorist' Killed; Weapons Recovered

LD1810184494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the security forces killed a terrorist at Djenane Essafri, in the commune of Boukhadra, near Birkhadem. His name was Zenaya Mohamed, and he was of Moroccan nationality. Three radio receivers and transmitters, a telephone set, and two automatic guns were seized from this network, which is led by Zitouni Djamal.

Egypt

Syria's al-Asad Arrives in Cairo for Talks

Mubarak Receives al-Asad

NC1810115594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1146 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit of several hours to Egypt. The Syrian president was received by President Husni Mubarak, who accompanied him to the presidential palace in Heliopolis, Cairo.

Mubarak, al-Asad Hold Talks

NC1810122594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1213 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held a round of talks at the Presidential Palace immediately upon the two leaders' arrival from the airport this afternoon. This round of talks, which was confined to the two leaders only, is part of their continuous consultations to advance the Middle East peace process.

Mubarak, al-Asad Hold News Conference

NC1810174094 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 94

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad with foreign and domestic correspondents at the Presidential Palace in Cairo on 18 October—recorded; italicized passages in English with superimposed translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Mubarak] I welcome brother President Hafiz al-Asad, who is a long-time brother and friend. He is president of Syria. We all know that relations between Egypt and Syria are close and firm in the Arab World. At today's talks, which lasted four hours, we discussed the Middle East issue in general. We have reviewed the developments on the Syrian track. We are also determined to reach peace and a peaceful solution. This is a strategic line on which we are agreed. We also discussed the developments in the Gulf region and the problems surrounding the region.

[Al-Asad] I thank my brother President Mubarak. As he has said, we are indeed old friends. In addition, what is more important is the firm, historic, and deeply-rooted relations between Egypt and Syria. As previous generations did and future generations will do, we are working to strengthen the bonds linking the two countries. Of course, as you know, we always meet and exchange views on bilateral, Arab, and international issues. This is what we discuss at every meeting; it is what we discussed today. My brother President Mubarak mentioned the issues that we discussed and I have nothing to add. We discussed peace in the region in general, the Iraqi issue, what happened and is now happening in the Gulf. We also discussed bilateral relations. We did not neglect any issue that directly concerns us.

We always reach identical views. We hope that by reaching identical views we can serve Egypt and Syria and our Arab nation. When we discuss international issues, we hope that our identical views or decisions will not harm anyone, but defend our interests.

This is what we discussed and I would like to repeat my thanks to President Mubarak. We are all tired, he and I. [laughter] He and I are tired, and despite this we needed to meet to discuss important issues that concern our peoples.

[Unidentified correspondent] President Mubarak, You are known to be optimistic about finding a solution to the conflict and establishing a fair and comprehensive peace in the region. Can you tell us about the basis for this optimism?

[Mubarak] I believe that all Arab leaders, including my brother President Hafiz, share this optimism. Otherwise, if there is pessimism there is no room for life. There is no life with despair; this is well known. Regarding a solution between Israel and Syria, this will take time. Optimism does not mean that the issue will be solved tomorrow or the day after. We all hope to reach a solution so that a comprehensive peace can prevail in the region. All of us—President al-Asad and I—believe in this. I do not think there is any problem regarding this issue. Optimism exists because it is essential. Peaceful outlooks and intentions to achieve peace are cherished by all the Arab parties. All parties have joined the negotiations, but there are problems that need more negotiations. Perhaps these problems hinder arrival at a final solution.

[Correspondent] Mr. President Husni Mubarak: The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration will meet tomorrow. What are you expecting from this meeting

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and how should this group that disappears and reappears from time to time become active?

[Mubarak] The sun rises in the morning and sets at night. [laughter] It disappears and then appears; well, that is no problem. The Damascus Declaration was a very slow starter. I hope that there will be progress at tomorrow's meeting, though I know that tomorrow's meeting is an extraordinary one. There will be another meeting, maybe in November or December, to discuss their plans. I hope that the Damascus Declaration will justify the confidence in it and fulfill its objectives.

[Correspondent] Mr. President Husni Mubarak, Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad, my question is this: Rabin said today that the Jordanian-Israeli agreement sets a precedent for the record. He hopes that this will have an effect on the Syrian track with regard to the exchange and leasing of lands. Of course he advocates the policy of leasing territories. With regard to Jordan, the agricultural villages will remain under Israeli sovereignty [as heard] and he clearly and openly refers to the Golan. He wants to lease the Golan villages and to let them then be under Syrian sovereignty. This means, President Mubarak, that he does not accept the Egyptian example of Yamit. What is your view?

[Mubarak] I will leave it to President Hafiz to make a full comment. But I have said several times that territory is a point of honor for us and it is not subject to discussion. We do not know what there is in the Jordanian agreement. I was told yesterday by the Israeli prime minister that they will sign the agreement at 1330, and I congratulated him. But I have not heard anything from Jordan and I have not received any reports about the agreement from Jordan. If Jordan wants to lease its land, that is its own affair. Egypt does not lease and has not leased any land. I do not believe that Syria will follow this line, if this is true.

[Correspondent] Mr. President al-Asad?

[Al-Asad] As President Mubarak has said, we have been working for peace for several years. But we have always talked openly and not in the dark. We have repeated and reiterated what we want and we will continue to reiterate it; and no one will ever hear from us anything that contradicts what we have said in the past. Our land is ours. We regard it as blasphemy for any homeland to talk about leasing its land to other entities. I doubt that anyone means that Syria will lease lands to Israel. I doubt this. Yet if my doubts are misplaced, then whoever dreams or thinks that Syria could lease lands is committing a serious and grave mistake. If we all adopt this theory, it will lead to the opposite of peace, not to peace, and there will be no peace in the region even if we live for dozens or hundreds of years. We will live, with God's help, for successive decades. There will be no peace if all the territory is not returned.

[Muhammad Khayr al-Zu'bi, TISHRIN] President Mubarak, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stated that prolonging the negotiations in the peace process will not serve the parties concerned, but the enemies of peace. From your contacts with the Americans, do you believe that the U.S. Administration will apply pressure to shorten the time of the negotiations? How can the Israeli evasion and prolonging of the negotiations be addressed?

[Mubarak] Perhaps the U.S. Secretary of State does not mean Syria but Israel. Perhaps he is generally saying that prolonging the negotiations does not serve the cause of peace. Why should we think that he means Syria? He may be telling all the parties that prolonging the negotiations does not serve the cause of peace. We have contacts with the Americans; so does President al-Asad and he is aware of the facts in this regard.

[Correspondent] President al-Asad, has a draft agreement been reached on a timetable for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan? Will the withdrawal take place within two years, sooner, or longer?

[Al-Asad] As you know, the talks are being conducted through a U.S. mediator. We exchange ideas and our ideas are conveyed to them and the others' ideas are conveyed to us. I can say that what I said to you, or to some of you who accompanied brother President Husni Mubarak to Damascus, is still valid. We are still at a stage of putting out feelers. In fact, we have not reached specific agreements on any issue other than to continue the negotiations. Therefore, any talk [pauses] of course, these issues were mentioned in the exchange of ideas between us. However, we have not reached any conclusion. Our views are not in agreement. We have our own views and they have their own.

[Mirvat Fahmi, ROSE AL-YUSUF] President al-Asad, Does Syria link the reaching a Syrian-Israeli agreement to a Lebanese-Israeli agreement?

[Al-Asad] From the outset we said that Syria wants a comprehensive peace. We have adopted this stance from the beginning of the peace process and even before that process began. When we talked of peace we always maintained that peace must be fair and comprehensive.

As you know, the foreign ministers of the so-called cordon states used to meet to coordinate their stances and exchange views. In addition, meetings were held between the delegations to the negotiations that used to be held in Washington so that every party could learn the extent of progress or otherwise regarding this or that party. Some brothers have chosen their own way, away from coordination. We wish them success, although we have not and will not agree to what they have done.

I believe that every party that has sought a separate avenue and discussed its issue away from the other Arab parties has undermined its own position and not the position of the remaining Arabs. The results you can hear every now and then affirm this fact. When we view things from a narrower perspective and focus on Syria as

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Syrians, it might be comfortable for the others to leave us, as they have done. However at no time in the past, present, or future will we do that. We will side with every Arab problem and with a fair solution until such a solution is found.

Certain parties have opted for a path other than the path on which we agreed from the beginning and have taken steps on that path, believing that this solution was suitable for them. We told those whom we met after they had opted for this choice: We do not support you and you have made a mistake. However, we will not make a fuss about this. We will not fight you over this issue. Even though we believe that you made a mistake and that you have harmed the collective effort, we wish you success. We will not support you but we will not undertake tangible material opposition to hamper your efforts.

Many of those who follow regional issues undoubtedly know that we are capable of obstructing. But such obstructions have a price involving us Arabs. We do not want to further distort the Arab image, particularly in these circumstances. It is distorted and weak enough as it is. Therefore, we will hold fast to the goal, the motto, or the principle on which we set out and our all-encompassing goal. But with whom will we hold fast? With whomever maintains that same position. With whomever chooses his course, concludes his agreement, and sets out and makes the peace he views as comprehensive. If he sees it as comprehensive. No one but Syria and Lebanon remain in [word indistinct]. We will certainly stick together. Neither of us will agree to act independently of the other, particularly since relations between us... [pauses] Relations among us all, as Arabs, are supposed to be organic and to involve a common destiny and ties of blood and of different forms and dimensions.

You certainly know that during the past 20 years, the problem in Lebanon required much interaction between us in Syria and our brothers in Lebanon. In fact, the feelings we harbor for them are exactly the same as those we feel toward Syria. I think that the same thing applies to them. We believe that our destiny is common as far as the peace process is concerned.

I believe that people in other countries—I mean outside the Arab nation—believe that relations between Syria and Lebanon in the past two decades have become distinctive. It is hard for either of us to take a step independently of the other. You know that some steps were taken where Lebanon was concerned and did not succeed. When we link the two, we do not do it to complicate things, but because we believe that unless peace is comprehensive when it comes to Lebanon and Syria, or even the others, if they had continued with us... [pauses] When the others were in the position they assumed before, before they took the course they took, we used to say that we would not proceed along the road to peace unless they also made progress. They advanced in their own way.

As far as Syria and Lebanon are concerned, there is mutual understanding. We seriously want peace. Both of us are serious in seeking peace, but for both countries. This means that the matter requires either of the two parties to be absent. [sentence as heard] All have a role to play. We cannot establish peace for ourselves and for Lebanon as well unless Lebanon actively plays a role. Equally, Lebanon cannot establish peace for itself or for Syria unless Syria plays an active and distinct role. This situation makes it possible to achieve a solid and comprehensive peace for anyone who has not achieved their own peace.

We hope it will succeed, although the road is still thorny and nothing is guaranteed. But, as President Mubarak said, we are optimistic. If there were no hope at all, we would be wasting time to no avail. That is what we should not do. We have hope; it is just a hope, since there is nothing concrete. Pray for us to build on and realize this hope.

[Name indistinct, AFP] *Your Excellencies, if I may ask in English. My name is [name indistinct] and I am with AGRENCE FRANCE PRESSE. Could you please tell us if you are going to participate in the signing ceremony between Jordan and Israel, and also will the U.S. President be coming to Egypt later this week?*

[Mubarak] What is she saying?

[Correspondent] *Will you participate in the signature celebrations between Jordan and Israel, and will President Clinton be coming to Cairo?*

[Mubarak] *You want it in English or Arabic?*

[Correspondent] *In English, Mr. President.*

[Mubarak] *I do not think that any other head of state will be requested or invited to attend the signature, except the President of the United States of America. It happened in the signature between the Palestinians and the Israelis in the United States. Both the [word indistinct] attended in the presence of the President of the United States of America. Also in the peace process and the peace agreement which was held in 1978 between President al-Sadat and Menachem Begin no other head of state attended. So I do not think that we will attend such a thing. About the President of the United States coming to the area, I heard that. I do not know exactly what will be the schedule.*

[Correspondent] I am from the MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY. Mr. President Husni Mubarak, Mr. President Hafiz al-Asad: the Middle East and North Africa economic summit will be held in Morocco at the end of this month. We would like to know from Your Excellencies what are Egypt's and Syria's stands on this summit and how will it effect the peace process in the region?

[Mubarak] You want Egypt's stand? We have not yet decided who will go to the economic summit.

[Al-Asad] As you know, we have a stand on the multilateral talks. We do not attend the multilateral meetings

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or the meetings stemming from them because we believe that any work done or carried out under these circumstances favors Israel and not us. It is not reasonable to look for economic, cultural, and other cooperation while we are in a state of war and while there are occupied territories and refugees. Such conferences could be beneficial when peace is established. But to look for money and for someone to build our economy under the circumstances we are in is not, in my view, the objective of these conferences. I wish that all our Arab brothers stress the need for these conferences and their benefits when we achieve peace.

[Mubarak] Thank you.

[Al-Asad] Thank you.

Al-Asad Departs Cairo

NC1810165594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad left Cairo for home this evening, following a quick visit to Egypt that lasted several hours. While in Cairo, President al-Asad held important talks with President Husni Mubarak on a number of Arab issues, the peace talks on the Syrian-Israeli track, and bilateral relations.

The Syrian president was seen off at the airport by President Mubarak and senior state officials.

Ministers Arrive for Damascus Declaration Meeting

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1810194394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo this evening to attend the meeting of the Damascus Declaration signatories that will open tomorrow, Wednesday.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Upon arrival, al-Faysal said that tomorrow's meeting will discuss the disturbing situation in the Gulf region as a result of the recent provocative measure of the Iraqi Government. He said that the Damascus Declaration signatories took a historic stand during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and this led to its eventual liberation.

Al-Faysal expressed the hope that the signatories will tackle the recent development by laying down the basis for peace in the region to ensure that such tragedies will not recur in the future.

Answering a question on whether this meeting is a little bit late, the Saudi foreign minister said that the Cairo meeting is being held immediately after the problem, which emerged only 10 days ago.

He hopes the meeting will produce good results.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives

NC1810211194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Cairo this evening, leading his country's delegation at the meeting of the foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration signatories that will open in Cairo tomorrow morning, Wednesday.

The Kuwaiti minister was received by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In an arrival statement, Shaykh al-Ahmad said that the Damascus Declaration signatories—Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states—were partners in the liberation of Kuwait and in facing up to the recent challenge to which his country was subjected.

Asked why Kuwait had addressed a call to foreign states and not to the signatories during the recent crisis, he said that there are agreements and treaties and that when the threat appeared, the brothers in Egypt, Syria and the GCC responded to the call just like the other countries bound by treaties with Kuwait. He went on to say that he regrets that in 1990 there was no Arab capability to check the Iraqi attack. That is why his country signed treaties with other states to assist it in confronting Iraqi power, he explained.

He added that the brothers in Cairo and Syria participated in the liberation process, just as they participated in facing the threat to Kuwait.

Asked about the cost involved in seeking the assistance of those other states, he replied that defending the homeland cannot be calculated in terms of money.

The Kuwaiti minister was asked to comment on the Iraqi National Assembly's statement linking recognition of Kuwait to a timetable for lifting the sanctions. He said that the Iraqi statement reflects disdain for the entire world. We in Kuwait are accustomed to these cheap acts, and the world should know that we do not trust the Iraqi regime.

For his part, 'Amr Musa remarked that the Damascus Declaration signatories meeting will be very important. He added that he believes that Arab power is capable of supporting Kuwait. But it is up to Kuwait to make the decision to defend itself and its soil, he said.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed With Germany

NC1910083294 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt and Germany have signed a new financial and economic cooperation protocol.

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Under the agreement, Egypt will obtain 260 million German marks (610 million Egyptian pounds). Half of the money will be a non-refundable grant and the other half will be a soft loan with an interest rate not less than 1 percent, repayable within 40 to 50 years.

Party Suspends Activity Over Internal Disputes

NC1910092494 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 13-19 Oct 94 p 2

[Report by 'Abd-al-'Azim Darwish]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The mainstream faction within the Young Egypt Party (Misr al-Fatah), a minor opposition group, has decided to suspend its activities in hopes of sanctioning faction leader 'Ali-al-Din Salih as overall party boss.

Salih, whose leadership is contested by 'Abdallah Rushdi, has won three court orders in his favour which have been largely ignored by the semi-governmental Political Parties Committee.

Salih finally decided to suspend all party meetings and turn over the party offices to their original owners, hoping the move will motivate the Committee to abide by the rulings of the Administrative Court. Yet Salih stated he will continue cooperation and coordination with the leaders of other opposition parties "because the decision to freeze party activities is not a decision to renounce my leadership of the party". [passage omitted]

Eight 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash

NC1910073094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2358 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Eight terrorists were killed this evening at the village of Itlidim, near Markaz Abu- Qurqas, in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of al-Minya, a responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated.

The source added that as part of the intensive security campaigns launched to arrest fugitive terrorists in Upper Egypt and in light of the information available to the State Security Intelligence Service, a campaign was mounted grouping teams from the Central Security and Public Security Forces from al-Minya against the Miller field in Itlidim village, which some fugitive terrorism used as a meeting place to prepare for carrying out the acts of violence assigned to them.

The source added that after taking the legal measures to storm the area and while the forces were heading there to begin the search, they came under fire from different directions. The security forces immediately returned and silenced the sources of fire, the source added, noting that when a search was mounted, eight bodies were found in different locations. It transpired that they are bodies of terrorist elements involved in the recent terrorist incidents carried out in Mallawi, including shootings at policemen and police cars. The eight terrorists, all from al-Minya, were members of the same organization. They were: Nash'at Sidqi Riyad, who held a high technical school diploma and lived in Mallawi; Jamal Muhammad 'Uthman, a holder of a high commercial school diploma who lived in [name indistinct]; Kamal Sa'd Hasan Talib, a holder of a high industrial school diploma; Muhammad 'Abbas Hamzawi, a secondary school student from Qilba; 'Imad 'Abd-al-Rashid 'Abd-al-Jalil, a carpenter from Mallawi; Muhsin 'Ali 'Abd-al-Raziq Mazin, a secondary school student from Kindah village; 'Ali Hasan 'Abd-al-Mun'im, a secondary school student from Mallawi; and Isma'il Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, from [name indistinct] village.

The source added that next to the bodies of the terrorists, security men had found an automatic rifle with unintelligible serial numbers, three Russian-made pistols, two shotguns, and some rounds. The prosecutor has been notified to begin an investigation.

Brother, Friend of Slain Militant Detained

NC1910082894 Paris AFP in English 2145 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 18 (AFP)—The brother and a close friend of an Egyptian militant killed in a bloody attack in Jerusalem on October 9 have been held by Egyptian police for a week, a human rights group said here Tuesday [18 October].

Israeli police shot dead 'Isam Isma'il and a Palestinian accomplice minutes after they opened fire in a street in West Jerusalem, killing an Israeli woman soldier and a Palestinian from Arab East Jerusalem.

The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation said police arrested 'Isam's elder brother Usamah Muhanna Isma'il and a friend, Muhammad Kamal, in the Shubra al-Kaymah district of Cairo the day after the attack, which was claimed by the Islamic Resistance Movement HAMAS.

'Isam's father, two sisters and their husbands were also arrested but later released by police, the human rights group said, adding that the militant's relatives alleged they were tortured during detention.

Last week police said they had arrested three Egyptian militants accused of providing 'Isam with false documents which enabled him to enter Israel as a tourist.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Award Ceremony in Tripoli

LD1910081594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at an award ceremony at al-Fatih University in Tripoli; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God; I would like to express in the name of the al-Fatih University and in my name thanks and gratitude for the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Inakons in the state of Goiania in Brazil and want to say that this link from across the sea of darkness [old Arab expression for Atlantic Ocean] is the link that has been proved to be stronger than the attempts to separate nations and to incite some of them against others, and stronger than the operations of blockade, sanctions and spoiling which are carried out by imperialism—precisely by U.S. imperialism—spoiling of relations among nations, and sacrificing the interests of peoples for the sake of imperialist aims. [passage omitted]

This ceremony gives the world a clear picture of the fact—the Jamahiriyah is not blockaded, as it has the peoples with it, and this is the strong support and the alliance which will triumph in the end and proves that those who are imposing the blockade are the representatives of the official imperialist circles which have ambitions hostile to the aspirations of nations. [passage omitted]

How many times has the head of the biggest state, the United States, sacrificed the reputation and interests of the United States in order to save his position when the latter became fragile? How many times has he tried to beautify his picture when the it became disfigured? How many times has he tried to strongly anchor his chair when the it began to shake? He sends thousands of poor soldiers in various seasons—summer and winter—from one region to another, and moves tens of tons of costly pieces of iron from one place to another, and raises taxes. Soldiers are sent as if they are cattle to the market or to the abattoir with their mouths wide open, not knowing to where they are being sent and not even knowing the nature of the land they are going to, nor the reason for their travel. This tragic situation being experienced by mankind cannot go on. The revolution will be staged no doubt against such a situation. This situation will inevitably end with a revolution.

These days you see the world looking at a comedy being performed on a stage. Every day billions [currency not specified] are being spent for the sake the disfigured picture of the President and in order to convince others that imperialism is strong while the fact remains that imperialism is weakening itself by carrying out such actions. It would have been far better had these billions been spent on peaceful programs—for fighting diseases the common enemy of mankind. [passage omitted] Such funds should have been given to needy peoples, needy families, and working individuals instead of being spent as fuel for aircraft carriers and tens of escorting vessels and hundreds of aircraft, and also being spent on futile projects such as the one which is now taking place in the Gulf, the Caribbean, Somalia, and in the Balkans. All nations are on the waiting list, awaiting the American butcher who is daily training himself in the arts of mass killing and torturing mankind; he is training himself in order to become skilled in this profession. According to the imperialist plan, no people shall escape this fate. [passage omitted]

The imperialists and capitalists want to execute peoples wholesale and force them to go hungry and blockade them en masse. The Americans are enjoying the slow death of the children of Iraq wholesale. They look at pictures and ready reports and laugh loudly as if they are satans and not human beings. The operations of wholesale killing of peoples and forcing them to go hungry will be confronted by a revolution one day. There is no other logic that can be used with the imperialists. There is no possibility to convince them. All peoples are compelled to ally themselves with each other to blockade imperialism. [passage omitted]

The United States now is making every effort to pave the road of death for the peoples of the world, but in the end the United States itself will die along the road it has paved for itself, believing that it has paved for others. It is common knowledge now that arrogance of the U.S. has reached such an extent—sensing that the world has become weak against it and that there is no deterrent for it to fear and that it has become the sole administrator of the globe—that it has become blind, and now it is trying even to control the population, and culture of the world, telling the latter what it can watch and what it can hear, and how it can speak, and what it can eat and drink. It is paving the way to control the population of the world by several deceitful steps that began with the recent conference in the name of the UN, the population conference, and before that the earth conference. The U.S. may stage a series of deceitful conference of this type so that everyone will be convinced that the population of the world has outstripped its resources and thus it should be decreased. This is to pave the way for using its atomic weapons in a number of areas of the world. This is the hidden plan behind these misleading efforts. By a series of these conferences the United States aims at using atomic bombs against millions of people. Such use will not be regarded as harm but an implementation of the resolutions of international conferences. Plans will be drawn up to strike at India, China, Brazil, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Euro-Asia. This is hard information, that the United States is planning to hit these areas with atomic bombs in the future. This may also extend to Japan and the Korean Peninsula. This is the secret behind the United States' desire to follow up any nuclear or missile—ballistic—activity in any given part of the world because the United States wants to guarantee that in the future there will be no ballistic missiles possessed by other countries. [passage omitted]

The United States is very active; it uses the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations in its own interest so that it can guarantee that there is no state that can manufacture ballistic missiles or chemical or bacteriological or nuclear bomb. Why? Not because the United States is concerned about mankind. Not because the United States is concerned about peace.

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If the United States says that this is because it is concerned about mankind, the whole world will laugh at that. The United States is the one who is wiping out mankind. The United States is the one who has little or no regard for human rights or for lives. It is the one which is responsible for mass killing and racial discrimination. It is the bitter enemy of peace. It interests lie in the destruction of the world, in war. The United States is founded on the companies that produce weapons. These companies need markets and markets mean war. [passage omitted]

The United States by virtue of its capitalist make-up is propelled along this path which will inevitably lead to its end, unless the United States becomes a revolutionary and socialist state, and the black nations are liberated, and an independent state is set up in North America, and the remaining Red Indians are liberated and establish an independent state, and other groups such as the Jews and the Arabs and the Asians, are liberated and establish their own states. There will be a state especially for the Yankees. This is on condition that all these states shall be socialist and revolutionary. Then and only then shall the United States and its peoples shall remain alive. Otherwise it will inevitable end. [passage omitted]

We would like to tell our friends in Latin America, especially Brazil, that they should expect an atomic strike from the U.S. in future. This is definite. We would like to tell our friends in Asia—India, Bangladesh, and China—to expect atomic strikes from the U.S.; this also applies to the peoples of East Asia and Euro-Asia and the human population weight in Africa which is manifested by Nigeria. These are areas selected for atomic bombs strikes in future for reasons which the United States will create. Now the United States is paving the way and is convincing the world that the population has increased more than necessary. [passage omitted]

The United States as a matter of fact wants to suck the blood of the world, but it is facing difficulty. It wants to take the wealth of China but there are more than one billion people in China. It wants to take the wealth of India but there is more than half a billion people in India. It wants to take the wealth of Russia but there is more than a quarter of a billion people in Russia. It wants to take the wealth of Brazil and Latin America but there are peoples there whose number is increasing at all times and its strength is escalating. The United States' aim is to absorb the wealth of the world without resistance. Ultimately an end should be put to the resistance. [passage omitted]

The peoples should know this and realize it and unite to confront this danger and defeat it before it becomes too big. The United States will drop a number of atomic bombs on these areas which I have mentioned and for reasons which it will itself in future create. But now it has created the ground for that. It has convinced the world that the population has increased. [passage omitted]

The United States is convinced that all mankind do not deserve to live; this is evident in the mass killing, blockades, and destruction of peoples; all this is something normal as far as it is concerned. The United States gets angry if a flight in the United States is delayed or a vessel is late or an official is late in arriving at his office, while it blockades entire peoples, not allowing airplanes, ships, or supplies to reach them over a year and without allowing them to sell or buy to and from the world. It is pleased to see this and laughs loudly at it. This is the situation of the world today. But this step by a university in Brazil shows that those who are aware in the world are capable of contacting each other and of defying the United States and blockading it and capable also of placing their hands in each other's. I regard the awarding of this diploma by a university far away from here in the western hemisphere and near the frontier of the United States to a person such as I, who is regarded in the American dictionary as being a terrorist, a dictator, a danger, a threat to the interests of the United States, an annoyance—they have published several books under this title: Death for al-Qadhdhafi; Al-Qadhdhafi Is an Annoying Person; Al-Qadhdhafi Is a Terrorist; Al-Qadhdhafi Is Mad; Al-Qadhdhafi Is a Dictator: these are titles of books published by U.S. intelligence. But all this does not affect the people in Latin America. Those students and professors who are aware in this university in Brazil throw everything that the United States has said and written about al-Qadhdhafi in the rubbish bins. [passage omitted]

European Consortium To Drill Oil in Murzuq Basin

LD1810170294 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 18 Oct—A number of agreements have been signed recently between the National Oil Corporation in the Great Jamahiriyah and a consortium of European companies including: 1. Spanish Repsol; 2. Austrian OMF; and 3. French Total. This is to develop and promote oil exploration in the area of the Murzuq basin.

According to these agreements, the necessary surface facilities for the production, treatment, and transport of crude oil from the oilfields of the aforementioned area will be established, in addition to drilling the wells which will enable the extraction of the discovered quantities of oil in these fields and the building of a 400 km pipeline with a 30 inch diameter connecting the oilfields of this area and the Hammadah oilfields to pump the quantities of oil produced by the end of 1996 to the al-Zawiyah oil terminal.

Sources at the National Oil Corporation said that production is expected to start in the Murzuq basin area in 1996 at the rate of 60,000 barrels per day, rising to the maximum level of 200,000 barrels per day by the end of 1998.

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Morocco

Political Parties Respond to King's Speech

LD1710142194 Rabat MAP in English 1231 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Oct.17 (MAP)—Leaders of Moroccan political parties have all voiced appreciation for the royal speech delivered Friday [14 October] wherein King Hassan II invited the opposition to form an alliance with any other parliamentary group to form a majority and then a government and said the prime minister will be chosen from this group.

For Mohamed el-Yazghi, interim first secretary of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/opposition), the royal speech is a historic speech that places Morocco at a turning point and enables it to start the 21st Century well-equipped in matters of democracy and human rights.

In a statement to the Moroccan television 'RTM', El-Yazghi said that King Hassan II decided to open a new page in the history of Morocco and that the contents of the speech were based on the form and essence of the constitution.

In a similar statement, Secretary General of the Popular Movement (MP/right) Mohand Laensar [as received] said the changeover of political power can only consolidate constitutional and democratic practice, while Assistant Secretary General of the Istiqlal Party (Nationalist/opposition) Mohamed [name indistinct] said the royal speech positively materializes constitutional life.

The president of the National Rally of Independents (RNI/center) Ahmed Ousman on his part said the changeover of power as upheld by King Hassan II will give birth to a majority and an opposition that are called to endeavor 'in sportsmanship' to ensure the country's prosperity. Ousman expressed hope that the royal speech will be crowned by the setting up of ideal constitutions fully shouldering their responsibilities.

In the same vein, Secretary General of the National Democrat Party (PND/right) Arsalane el-Jadidi expressed appreciation for the royal speech saying the changeover of power will enable all Moroccans to contribute to preserving the supreme interests of the country.

Secretary General of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) Ali Yata said his party is determined to work with the parties forming the Koutla (alliance made up by the USFP, the Istiqlal and the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action - OADP) to set up a government able to meet the Moroccan people's aspirations.

The royal decision is based on genuine democracy and paves the way for the change so badly needed by the people, Ali Yata said.

Secretary General of the Organization for Popular and Democratic Action (OADP/opposition) Mohamed Bensaid underlined the importance of the royal speech and renewed his party's mobilization and readiness to shoulder its responsibility and usher in constitutional, political and economic reforms.

On the morrow of the royal speech, several political parties such as the USFP, the PPS and the Constitutional Union (UC/center) convened their leading bodies to discuss the importance of the royal decision to appoint a prime minister from the opposition and its allies.

King Hassan II renewed Friday when opening fall session of the second legislative year his attachment to the change over of power without which democracy would be meaningless. He said 'we have decided to choose the prime minister from the group made up of the former opposition and its allies'. The sovereign announced that consultations to form a new government will start shortly.

Sudan

Egypt Blamed for Deterioration in Relations

EA1810120094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has confirmed that the Egyptian Government, by occupying the Hala'ib triangle and the area of Argin in Wadi Halfa, bears responsibility for the deterioration of relations between the two countries.

He pointed out that dialogue was useless in light of Egyptian aggression against Sudanese territory and of its playing host to the opposition in Cairo. The source told the newspaper AL-SUDAN AL- HADITH that what Egypt described as shortcomings on Sudan's part in fact represented the very essence of Sudan's sovereignty, and such claims were an interference in the internal affairs of Sudan.

He said that Sudan, under the National Salvation Revolution, had adopted a civilizational course of self-reliance, the application of Islamic law, and refusal to allow others to interfere in its internal affairs.

Meanwhile in Cairo, the conference on freedoms and civil society convened by the political and trade union forces in Egypt has asked the Egyptian Government to eliminate the causes of the fabricated stand-off between the two countries.

Withdrawal of Uganda Border Observers Announced

EA1810124094 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier Muhammad Bashir Sulayman, the official spokesman of the Armed Forces, has said that the government has withdrawn its military

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observers from the borders with Uganda in accordance with a request from the Ugandan Government.

His excellency told the newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI, published today, that the observers were stationed at fixed points on the border between the two countries at the request of the Ugandan Government, which wanted to disprove accusations that it was supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Army rebels.

Uganda's support for the rebels did not need observers, the spokesman said. This support consisted of receiving and conveying military equipment and materials required for the fighting, which were sent to the rebels from the enemies of Sudan outside Uganda. He said that Uganda provided the rebels with territory in which to move their forces and it also provided training camps for them and (?support) with weapons and ammunition.

The official spokesman of the Armed Forces stressed that the Ugandan Government, in spite of the fact that it was the one which asked for the deployment of the observers, had restricted their role by placing them under strict surveillance and constant shadowing, and by preventing them from carrying out their observation duties as stipulated. His excellency reiterated the government's commitment to the temporary ceasefire recently announced.

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Bahrain

Fighter Planes, Helicopters Leave for Kuwait

JN1910081994 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—Fighter planes and helicopters from the Bahraini Air Force left Manama for the sisterly State of Kuwait this morning to join the forces of the sisterly Gulf Cooperation Council states and the friendly international alliance states in boosting the Kuwaiti Army capabilities in defense of Kuwait's safety and security. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister: Iraq's UN Speech Disappointed Russia

LD1810224894 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Before leaving the country [for Cairo], the first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs [Sabah al-Ahmad] said that the address delivered by the Iraqi deputy prime minister before the Security Council last night was disappointing to Russia with regard to the issue of recognizing the sovereignty of the State of Kuwait inside its international border.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that the representative of the Iraqi regime only reiterated the content of the communique that was (?issued) in Baghdad recently [words indistinct] of the Russian foreign minister and which included the readiness of the Iraqi regime to sympathize in a positive way with the idea of recognizing Kuwaiti unity and sovereignty and sanctity of its international border.

The first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister added that the statement issued by the so-called Iraqi National Assembly was (?full of nonsense) from the Iraqi side and was the sort of thing to which we have become accustomed from that regime. [passage omitted]

He said Security Council Resolution 949 has ended all [word indistinct] that there is a place for diplomacy to resolve issues pending with the Iraqi regime.

Visiting Russian MP on Iraq's Internal Situation

LD1810223094 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1946 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 18 Oct 1994 [dateline as received]—Aleksey Valentinovich Mitrofanov, deputy chairman of the State Duma Committee of International Affairs reaffirmed today that his country was committed to the necessity of the Iraqi regime implementing all international resolutions passed against it.

In a statement to the local press, Mitrofanov, who heads his country's delegation during its current visit to Kuwait, made clear that changing the situation prevailing in Iraq at present was an internal matter concerning the Iraqi people.

Replying to a question from KUNA, Mitrofanov said that the existing Iraqi regime "dominates all the powers in the state and this reminds us of the days of" the dictatorship.

He said that the Iraqi regime had to recognize the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, which was drawn by a neutral UN technical committee, recognize Kuwait's sovereignty, and implement all UN Security Council resolutions passed against it.

Mitrofanov pointed out that there was about $6 to $8 billion which Iraq owed to Russia, in addition to further pledges to build a number of non-military industries in Iraq if economic sanctions were lifted.

He stressed the need for Kuwaiti media to be present in the Russian arena, calling Kuwaiti businessmen to invest in Russia.

Oman

France's Juppe on Gulf Crisis, Franco-U.S. Relations

BR1810120394 Paris LE MONDE in French 18 Oct 94 p 6

[Report by Mouna Naim: "According to Alain Juppe, It is Necesary To 'Establish the Conditions for Peace and Not Prepare for a New War'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat (Sultanate of Oman)—"Not believing Iraq on the basis of (statements of) good intentions," but at the same time "calming the situation and preventing escalation." This is how [French Foreign Minister] Alain Juppe explained France's "original" stance before a brief visit to Kuwait at the end of a tour of the Gulf which included Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman. We must, he said, "move forward and not create even more deadlock in the situation," "establish the conditions for peace, and not prepare for a new war." It goes without saying that France shows "solidarity" with its friends in the Gulf and with its allies.

Paris thinks it has prevailed for the time being, although it is Russia which proved most active by sending Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Baghdad. If it recognized Kuwait's sovereignty within its international borders "unconditionally and without restrictions," Iraq's troubles would not be over. Indeed, in Paris' view, this is the vital precondition for the Security Council examining the report of the UN special commission responsible for the disarmament of Iraq and submitting that country to a probationary period, which could be six months' long, before examining the lifting of the oil embargo.

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Having smoothed over the differences with Washington and London, Mr. Juppe calmly stated, at a news conference in Abu Dhabi on Sunday [16 October], that there is no "crisis" in Franco-American relations, perhaps just a few "differences of assessment." The fact remains that, in Qatar only the previous day, the minister had responded sharply, but without naming her, to Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador at the United Nations, who had accused France of being motivated by commercial interests.

Yes, "France defends its interests throughout the world," Mr. Juppe said. "It has an independent foreign policy. It does not obey anybody's orders." And he added: "I realize that that may displease some people. That will not make us change our mind. As for the defense of commercial interests, I think that there are superpowers which are in no position to preach to anybody on that subject."

In view of the fact that, like French companies, the Americans, the British, the Italians, and others are hurrying to Iraq with a view to the lifting of the embargo; in view of the fact that U.S. companies continue to do business, like everybody else, with countries which are also affected by UN sanctions, like Libya or Iran, it is difficult not to agree with Mr. Juppe.

The minister also spoke of "objections of an economic nature which certain countries may have to calming down" the crisis with Iraq. Is it not true that the United States and its Saudi allies in particular firmly intend to prevent a return of Iraqi oil onto the market, which would lead to a drop in prices?

Preventing any Hasty Initiative

In the recent crisis, the French Government's caution, against the advice of the military, and that of the president of the Republic have therefore paid off. Especially since, contrary to what might have been thought, the French reservations about the "warlike" American statements were not misinterpreted by the Gulf countries which Mr. Juppe has already visited. Although they show solidarity with Kuwait, whose fears they think are justified, and although some feel deep resentment toward Saddam Husayn, the leaders of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman think that any hasty initiative which would lead to the division of Iraq or even to "anarchy" should be avoided. Faced with what they regard as the Iranian "threat," Iraq, they say, must regain its position and role in the region once it has fulfilled the UN demands.

That leaves the question of what kind of Iraq they are talking about. Is it Iraq with or without Saddam Husayn? On the one hand the strong man of Baghdad is regarded with the greatest suspicion—to put it mildly—by the countries in the region. The United States no longer seems to want him as an interlocutor. But, on the other hand, nobody here sees who might succeed him.

So far, nobody has understood the objective of the recent Iraqi troop movements toward the Kuwaiti border. Was it a display of irritation, pressure exerted by the military apparatus, or, once again, a miscalculation by a man who has proved to be a poor strategist? The result is the same: Saddam Husayn has been forced to pull back his troops and submit to what the international community demands of him while strengthening, by his behavior, the arsenal of Security Council resolutions against his country. There are already around 30 of them.

Islamic Front Members Deported for Conspiracy Role

NC1510170094 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Oct 94 p 9

[From "The Brothers" Page]

[FBIS Translated Text] The authorities in the Sultanate of Oman have asked five Islamic Front members to leave the country following their involvement in the recent plot, which was aimed at destabilizing the situation in Oman. Those deported include Qurashi al-Tayyib, a doctor.

This information was contained in the "SUDAN" bulletin issued by the National Democratic Grouping.

Qatar

Foreign Minister Receives Iraqi Ambassador, Message

JN1910072094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha, 18 Oct (INA)—Anwar Sabri 'Abd-al-Razzaq, the Iraqi Ambassador to Qatar, met here today with Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, the foreign minister of Qatar.

During the meeting, the ambassador conveyed an oral message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf to his Qatari counterpart dealing with the current regional situation and ways to support the political and diplomatic efforts in order to entrench security and stability in the region. This aims to consolidate the efforts being made at the Security Council in this regard.

Newspaper Welcomes Jordan-Israel Treaty

JN1910073894 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Oct 18 (GNA)—Qatari Arabic newspaper today welcomed the Jordanian-Israel peace treaty initialed in Amman yesterday as a step toward comprehensive peace in the region.

'AL-SHARQ' newspaper said the dead end which the negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian track has reached should be attributed to Israel's hardline policies and its

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refusal to acknowledge the historic and geographic rights of Syria and Lebanon over their territory according to international resolutions.

It seemed untimely to talk about imminent peace between Syria and Israel while the image persisted that Israeli leaders have been seeking the imposition of a peace formula serving their long-term interests while trying to overlook their continued occupation of Arab land, the newspaper said.

Two United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspapers today welcomed the initialing of a peace treaty by Jordan and Israel and said King Husayn should not allow his peace deal with the Israelis to come between Jordan and its Arab neighbours.

The Dubayy-based AL-BAYAN said the Middle East peace which is sought by the U.S., the Arabs and the Israelis has not been achieved yet because partial solutions may overcome some hurdles but cannot make a real peace.

The paper noted that a real peace should be a comprehensive and just one so as to live all along.

"No peace will be achieved without Syria and this peace will not be a just one unless Israel abides by all U.N. Security Council resolutions which call for a full withdrawal from the occupied lands.

"It is hoped that U.S. President Bill Clinton will take this point into consideration during his visit to the region and seize the opportunity to make a historic and permanent peace in the land of peace," it said.

Another UAE daily 'GULF NEWS' said King Husayn should speak up at the earliest opportunity for a more even handed policy by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin so that a just peace can take root in the region.

"The cynical Israeli strategy of prolonging all talks for as long as possible and of seeking separate deals with each of the teams on the other side of the table has placed a lot of pressure on Jordan, just as it has on the Palestinians and the Syrians.

"When Middle East peace talks started in Madrid in 1991, the Israelis set a snail's pace and dealt differently with each negotiating team, with [word indistinct] aim of undermining Arab unity."

The paper asked whether the Israelis are not playing one Arab side against another by [words indistinct] strategy.

"Maybe Jordan is getting off more lightly than the rest, because the Israelis have no substantial extents of occupied territories to hand back. But if the Jordan-Israel peace treaty is going to make it more difficult for Husayn to speak up for the others, then Rabin's [words indistinct] and negotiate strategy is working too well," it said.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Ministry Frees 130 Islamic Activists

NC1610194694 Paris AFP in English 1557 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Oct 16 (AFP)—Saudi Arabia has released 130 Islamic activists arrested in the past few weeks while 27 others are still being held, an Interior Ministry statement said Sunday [16 October].

The statement, broadcast by the official SPA news agency, said "out of 157 people arrested, 130 have been released after repenting, while 27 others will be interrogated and their fate will be decided later."

On September 26 Riyadh confirmed the arrest of 110 pro-reform activists including two Saudi clerics. It accused them of "contacts with suspect groups abroad."

Three days later a London-based Islamic human rights group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights [CDLR], said 1,500 people had been arrested in a military-style crackdown.

The Interior Ministry said after the 110 arrests announced "more people were arrested bringing the number to 157.

"One hundred and thirty, having recognised their mistakes and activities which threatened public security, were freed after repenting."

The other 27 played "harmful roles," the statement said.

It warned it would take "severe measures against any activity contrary to Islam or the security of the kingdom."

After the first wave of arrests the United States voiced its "serious concern" about the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd has repeatedly said that human rights are guaranteed in Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh banned the CDLR several days after it was set up in May 1993 with the aim of fighting "oppression and injustice" in the kingdom.

Yemen

Prime Minister, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

JN1610210594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani at noon today received U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa Arthur Hughes.

At the outset of the meeting, the ambassador congratulated the brother prime minister on the occasion of forming the new government.

The meeting reviewed aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two friendly countries in various fields, in addition to issues and developments of mutual interest.

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'Aziz Meets With Kozyrev, French UN Envoy

JN1810195494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in New York today. The meeting, held at the Russian mission's headquarters, was attended by Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary; Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative; Ambassador Sergey Lavrov, Russia's permanent representative; and Kozyrev's assistant.

'Aziz received at his residence at noon today Ambassador Jean- Bernard Merimee, France's permanent representative at the United Nations.

'Aziz is expected to meet later today with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali as well as the ambassadors of Spain, China, and Brazil, and also Rolf Ekeus at the headquarters of the Iraqi mission at the United Nations.

Transport Minister Receives Russian Ambassador

JN1910065994 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad today met with Russian Ambassador in Baghdad Nikolay Katozev. During the meeting they discussed ways to promote Iraqi-Russian relations in the transport and communications fields.

Kuwaiti Deportees in South Appeal To Return Home

JN1810213594 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct. 18, INA—Kuwaiti deportees, camping south of Al-Basrah appealed to the international and human rights organizations to press the Kuwaiti regime [to] resort to justice for restoring their usurped rights and returning them to their relatives and homes in Kuwait.

In statements to INA, the deportees said behaviours of Kuwaiti rulers and the harm extended to them are flagrant breaching of human rights and the geniune Arab values.

More than 25 thousand Kuwaiti deportees stage a camp in north al- Basrah in an attempt to expound their case before world public opinion leading to their return to their homes.

Kurds Reportedly Mobilize 10,000 Guerrillas

NC1910050594 Paris AFP in English 2131 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, Oct 18 (AFP)—Kurdish rebels have mobilised 10,000 guerrillas in northern Iraq to counter any aggression by government forces, one of their leaders said Tuesday [18 October].

Jalal Talabani, head of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said almost 10,000 militiamen were in position on the front from Khanaqin in the southeast near the Iranian border to Taqtaq in the centre of Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"If (President) Saddam Husayn wants to attack us, he will do it in Zakho (in the extreme north) to take control of the oil pipeline there," he said.

"If he attacks on this front we will counter-attack in the east, especially Karkuk," where Iraq's main oil fields are situated."

Iraqi Kurds have controlled an area stretching from the Turkish border to Khanaqin since an uprising against Saddam after the 1991 Gulf War.

Saddam's army controls towns just west of the line, including Karkuk and al-Mawsil.

A Kurdish military official in Chamchamal, Mamrosten Kirkuli, said: "We are not going to attack Iraq unless the Americans do so. We would then try to retake Kurdish towns currently controlled by the central government."

Kirkuli said there were between 6,000 and 7,000 Iraqi regular troops near Chamchamal, "but they could quickly bring in reinforcements because their headquarters in Karkuk is nearby."

Shortly after news broke that 80,000 Iraqi troops had massed near the border with Kuwait on October 7, Kurdish officials here said they feared Saddam would launch an attack on Kurdish-held northern Iraq.

Relief Convoy To Head For Irbil, Dahuk Governorates

JN1810210894 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 18, INA—A convoy of eight trucks loaded with foodstuff and medicine on Tuesday [18 October] will head north to the provinces of the Autonomous Region, Irbil and Dahuk.

The shipments are donated by the International Federation of Red Cross Crescent Societies in a move to meet pressing and increasing need for food and medicine arising from dearth caused by total economic embargo imposed on Iraq since August, 1990.

The move followed an appeal by Iraqi Red Crescent Society early in March this year urging the Federation to send relief aid to Iraqi people who are severely affected by food shortages, chairman of the Society Dr. Sa'dun Khalifah told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER.

Dr. Khalifah added that prompted by Iraq's appeal, the Federation raised a fund of nine million Swiss Francs,

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and after defining Iraq's urgent needs, the Federation started, in cooperation and coordination with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, the execution of its relief programme which will last eight months.

According to Dr. Khalifah there are now some 2.500 million households who are believed to be affected by scarcity of food, and in order to meet the need of the said 2,500,000 families, huge and a widescale relief progamme are needed.

Out of the 2,500,000 some 23,000 (five-member each) households have been selected to be covered by the programme as 4,000 households in Baghdad city, 2,000 in each of Mosul and al-Basrah provinces and 1,000 households in each of the remaining provinces, said Dr. Khalifah, noting the programme has started on October 1 and will last until June, 1995.

The programme will provide entitled households with food items uncovered by the ration card system in addition to medical aid, particularly for children, said Dr. Khalifah.

The first batch of the aid will be delivered to the northern provinces within the coming days, said Dr. Khalifah, noting that the convoy will be escorted by a representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has earlier delivered consignments of vaccines denoted by UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) to the northern Autonomous Region.

The Society, moreover, has also sent relief aid including tents, blankets, detergents and utensils to people made homeless by outland groups in north, Dr. Khalifah said.

At the beginning of this year academic year, the Society has sent shipments of 1,860,000 school books in Kurdish language and stationery to the north.

The shipments were delivered to the branches of Iraqi Red Crescent Society there which, in turn, delivered them to the educational department of Irbil province to be distributed to the provinces of the Autonomous Region, said Dr. Khalifah.

Two representatives of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Antony Roland Maryon, head regional delegation, and Willem C. Smit, regional relief coordinator, [names and titles as received] have arrived earlier in Baghdad to supervise the delivery of the shipments.

According to Mr. Smit, who will accompany the relief aid convoy to north, six food-loaded trucks of 27 tonnes each will be delivered to Irbil and Dahuk provinces as four trucks to Irbil and two to Dahuk.

He added that one truck loaded with medicines will be delivered to Irbil province, whereas half truck will be delivered to Dahuk and a full truck will be sent to Mosul, noting that ealier, the Federation has sent food aid to Mosul.

Mr. Smit went on to say that the Federation works in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to relief the suffering of Iraqi people, however, the bittersweet reality is that our efforts are but a drop in an ocean, a grain of sand in the desert, compared to the needs of the Iraqi people.

FAO Official on Impact of Embargo on People

JN1810190094 Baghdad INA in English 1000 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 18, INA—Representative of the Food and Agriculture-Organisation (FAO) in Iraq, Dr. 'Amir 'Abdallah Khalil warned against the continuation of the economic embargo on Iraq.

In a statement to INA correspondent, Dr. Khalil said that over 4- year long embargo has reduced food materials which are distributed within the rationing card.

He said that each of the FAO, human rights organisation and the world nutrition conference stressed the need to a healthy and sufficient food for everybody and that food aid should not be stopped for any reason.

He explained that the food evaluation mission which visited Iraq on 1993 urged the United Nations to meet its obligation in eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

This mission, moreover stressed its support for any endeavour to meet these legal rights of Iraqi citizens.

Dr. Khalil also said the food situation in Iraq threatens with famine as a result of the continuation of this economic embargo.

Childhood in Iraq is threatened and formost as a result of death in food [sentence as received].

The embargo has led to death of thousands of children as a result of malnutrition and its ensuing diseases, he added.

FAO representative also said food situation in Iraq on 1993 was better than this year.

He urged the world community to provide the required finance for the agricultural sector so that Iraqis can provide their food requirements.

Editorial Says Cause of Crisis Unresolved

JN1810184294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—BABIL newspaper has called on the countries that supported Iraq during the latest crisis in face of the U.S. escalation to be aware that the cause of the crisis is still there and is

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represented by the entire aggressive policy toward Iraq and its people, especially concerning the siege and its continuation.

In its editorial today entitled "How To Deal With the Crisis and Its Causes," the newspaper said: Tackling the crisis should focus on the cause, and through lifting the siege, in the first place, and then all sanctions to which Iraq was subjected since their causes are over.

The newspaper emphasized that failure to give due attention to the main reason which has been and will continue to be the cause of tension means that any temporary treatment will be ineffective.

The newspaper concluded by saying that the crisis has not come from a vacuum, but was the natural result of the U.S. aggressive policy represented in starving 20 million Iraqi citizens although the practical and legal justifications of the siege are over as a result of Iraq's response to Security Council resolutions in spite of the injustice included in them.

AL-'IRAQ Ridicules Albright Statements

JN1810151894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—AL-'IRAQ has ridiculed the U.S. UN envoy's statements, which echoed the U.S. motives behind the overall U.S. illogical and illegitimate practices, which are characterized by the highest degrees of duality and moral degeneration.

In an editorial today, the paper says: If the language of haughtiness and arrogance and the attempt to impose trusteeship and play a unipolar role have overshadowed the U.S. attitude toward an ally like France, the language of escalation and impatience as well as the threat to use military force and confuse facts was the prevailing language of the U.S. way of dealing with Iraq—people, leadership, and issue. The paper adds: The United States proceeds from a strange malice unfamiliar in traditions and relations among states. It is discharging its responsibilities in the Council and acting accordingly.

The paper says U.S. envoy Albright attacked the French defense minister for his objective statements, which are based on a number of facts. The paper adds that the Americans, who launched the fiercest war of death and starvation against our patient people and who mobilized all their allies and helpers for that hostile objective, find it too much for the Iraqis to rest and they try to prevent them from getting it. The paper asks if there is a greater disdain of human rights than this and wonders whether any logic other than the logic of brute force allows a power, which is big in terms of material standards, to adopt such a policy in its international relations.

It adds: This hostile policy, which is excessive in its sadism, makes it incumbent on us to recall a fact [not further specified] which may seem irrelevant but certainly close to the overall picture and explains the U.S. and British measures which have recently sought to block any deal Iraq strikes with other states in order to import food, particularly wheat and rice, as was the case with two Thai deals.

Concluding, AL-'IRAQ says: The U.S. war of starvation, which is targeting one of the important means to boost our steadfastness and foil the hostile schemes, prompts us to heighten our steadfastness and assume the full burden of the historic stage we are currently witnessing. The stage of the fall of all cards of the U.S. plot is now in its final phase.

Writer Says Resolution 949 'Worst' Resolution

JN1810125894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0858 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has said the Security Council Resolution 949 violated two of the most important bases for relations between countries as approved by the UN Charter.

In an analysis published by AL-JUMHURIYAH, Salah al-Mukhtar said: The resolution violated the principle of equality by the United States concerning the sovereignty between all member states.

He added: The resolution interferes in a purely internal affair dealing with Iraqi sovereignty; the right to move a limited number of armed Iraqi forces within its border. It asks Iraq to move its forces northward using a U.S. threat to employ force.

He said: The main U.S. pretext for imposing the resolution was the allegation that the movement of Iraqi forces in the south constitutes a threat to Kuwait. This pretext is invalid if it is examined logically because it takes more than two divisions to invade Kuwait.

He said: The U.S. hostility toward Iraq, and its terrorism at the Security Council was what forced the Security Council to adopt a resolution that violates the UN Charter, and that is based on a silly and illogical pretext.

He added: What emphasizes the U.S. hostility toward Iraq was that the resolution was adopted after completing the withdrawal of Iraqi forces to the north; therefore, the claim that it was adopted to prevent a possible Iraqi military action is a false and biased claim which shows that the U.S. Administration has other intentions.

In his analysis, Salah al-Mukhtar referred to the hostile statements on Iraq by U.S. officials, and said: It became clear to all that the United States had prepared a comprehensive and detailed military plan to strike and destroy Iraq. This plan was described by the U.S. officials as having been worked out to overcome the mistakes that did not allow it to wipe out the Iraqi Armed

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Forces in 1991, especially the Republican Guards, and invade Iraq and reach Baghdad.

He said: The United States escalated the situation and created a general crisis, which it hoped to change into a political and psychological atmosphere, that would accept attacking Iraq fiercely and intensively to set it back for years, and end any hope of lifting the siege. The objective is to change Iraq into a state similar to Rwanda, Somalia, and Yugoslavia.

He emphasized that the Iraqi wisdom, which represents the other face of the Iraqi knighthood, heroism, and economic management, has pulled the rug from under the feet of the U.S. colonialism, and prevented the criminals from realizing their dreams.

Salah al-Mukhtar regretted that these facts, which the world knew, did not deter Washington from continuing its crime against Iraq, so it employed pressure to issue a new resolution that includes a violation of Iraqi sovereignty.

He said Resolution 949 constitutes a dangerous precedent in international relations that makes doubts, rather than solid facts reached after neutral investigation, the basis for issuing resolutions against other countries for tendentiuos political motives.

He added: It is the right of every country in the region and the world to be very concerned when hearing official U.S. sources say—in order to justify adoption of the resolution—that the presence of Iraqi forces in southern Iraq constitutes a threat to the U.S. interests and not only to Kuwait.

He said: The world should be aware that by accepting the adoption of a resolution calling for the Iraqi forces withdrawal to the north, it is providing the United States with a dangerous precedent to do the same thing with other countries.

He stressed that Resolution 949 is only another addition to the accumulated resolutions that are based on undermining Iraq's sovereignty, placing obstacles to its progress, and attempting to deprive it from the right to a free and dignified life although it is a rich country.

Concluding his analysis, Salah al-Mukhtar described Resolution 949 as the worst of these resolutions because it was adopted after more than four years of issuing anti-Iraq resolutions, which were adopted in artificial atmospheres that allowed the adoption of any resolution.

He said: The world is on a constant change, and Iraq's positions are now receiving the sympathy of many and the understanding of others. There is nothing in these positions that justifies going further in harming Iraq and increasing the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Deployment Said To Reveal Kuwaiti, Saudi Intentions

JN1810185494 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 18, (INA)—The BAGHDAD OBSERVER English-language daily of Iraq said the Iraqi deployment of forces served an important purpose which was stripping the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia off their masks and preventing them from continuing their deception of their own people, other Arabs and Moslems.

In its editorial for today, the paper said Iraq's latest troop movement has unveiled the fact that the ruling families of al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud have no real authority and they are used by the U.S. to recycle oil revenues to Western banks, thus depriving the majority of Arab and Moslem peoples of their rights and most of these revenues.

These two corrupt families have spent billion of dollars to beautify their ugly image in the eyes of their own people, other Arab and Moslems, the paper said.

The U.S. for its part is being forced to maintain permanent military presence and that in effect a direct occupation of tPe Gulf region that cannot be justified whatever the pretexts of the U.S. Administration and the two corrupt ruling families of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia could be.

The OBSERVER went on to say that the economic, political and social distortions that resulted from the U.S. and allies' neo-colonialist practices were designed to maintain family rule of al-Sabah and Al Sa'ud to ensure the continued exploitation of oil riches.

For that matter, the Kuwaiti and Saudi ruling families along with their masters are plotting against the patriotic leadership of president Saddam Husayn, conspiring against Yemen's unity and calling for the lifting of Arab boycott of Israel as a prelude to establish normal ties with it.

The paper concluded that these realities would give added causes to pan-Arab and Islamic movements to intensify their struggle against the subservient regimes in the Arab world.

Paper Advocates 'Good Neighborly' Ties in Region

JN1910100794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] 19 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the security and stability of the Gulf region's states are linked to the extent of their readiness to establish good neighborly relations away from the games of plotting for this or that big power.

In an article today, the paper addresses Kuwait's rulers, saying: Let Kuwait's rulers know that oil will inevitably dry up, and what will eventually remain are relations, which are based on good neighborliness, fraternal ties, and mutual interests.

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The paper says: In coordination with London and Washington, the rulers of Kuwait have adopted a policy of provocation, which will only maintain tension and escalate the crisis in order to cause grave harm to Iraq at a time when the international community, in cooperation with Iraq, seeks to entrench diplomatic solutions in order to ease tension in the region.

The paper notes: The rulers of Kuwait have spent most of Kuwait's funds to harm Iraq and its people. Now, they have opened a new financing channel that proves they continue to adopt a conspiratorial and hostile policy.

Concluding its article, AL-THAWRAH says: The rulers of Kuwait use exaggerated concerns over an imminent Iraqi danger as a pretext to cover their suspect financial policy. If we scrutinize the issue, we will find that it goes far beyond this, which takes us back to the same reasons behind the escalation of tension between Iraq and Kuwait.

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Bomb Explodes on Tel Aviv Bus; Fatalities Reported

Second Explosive Charge Feared

TA1910072894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0713 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. A bomb exploded on a bus near Dizengoff Center. The incident occurred a short while ago.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 0720 GMT on 18 October adds that "as a bus neared 100 Dizengoff Street, near the square, there was a tremendous explosion. We know with certainty that there are several fatalities in this attack. Many ambulances have rushed to the site and the entire area is closed off to to traffic. Rescue and security forces are at the site. It is feared that there is another explosive charge on the bus and bystanders are being dispersed from the area and attempts are being made to dismantle the second bomb, if it is indeed found on the bus."]

Hamas Deportees Assume Responsibility

TA1910082594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0812 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several minutes ago, we received an anonymous phone call from a man speaking Hebrew with an Arabic accent. The anonymous caller told me that the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists who had been deported to Marj al-Zuhur in Lebanon were assuming responsibility for today's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

The caller said he wished to thank the Israeli Government for deporting them to Lebanon where they underwent a course in assembling bombs. We know how to carry out attacks and will perpetrate many more acts of sabotage in the future. After saying this, the caller immediately hung up. This phone call was received at the Qol Yisra'el offices in Jerusalem.

Further Details on Explosion

TA1910082794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been many casualties in the serious terrorist attack a short while ago near Dizengoff Square in downtown Tel Aviv. About an hour ago, a large explosive charge blew up aboard a Dan Company bus running the No. 90 route. Our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i reports that the bus was almost totally gutted and that its skeleton went up in flames. A bus running the No. 5 route and passing nearby was hit in the front end. The area has been cordoned off, and rescue teams are now treating the casualties.

Personnel from Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital have deployed to deal with the mass terrorist attack. They have already admitted 32 wounded persons, one of them in serious condition.

Buildings near the site of the explosion were seriously damaged. Israel Police bomb disposal experts are currently checking the remains of the bus for fear that there might be more explosives aboard. The public is kindly requested to stay away from the area.

Tel Aviv Municipality has opened an information bureau for the public at the Cameri Theater building.

Magen David Adom, the first aid services, calls on the public to donate blood at its station on Bazel Street in Tel Aviv and at Tel Hashomer Hospital's blood services center.

Bus drivers all over the country are being called upon to stop their vehicles and inspect them. Residents of Tel Aviv are requested to reduce their use of the phones as much as possible.

Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo told Qol Yisra'el that bodies are strewn among the remains of the bus and nearby. Deputy Mayor Avigdor Qahalani, who witnessed the attack, said there are many fatalities, particularly among the bus passengers and that the sight is horrifying and appalling.

In London, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this is yet another act of terror by the enemies of peace: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad.

Rabin Condemns 'Enemies of Peace'

LD1910123794 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1211 GMT 19 Oct 94

[By James Hardy, political editor, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shattered Israeli premier Yitzhak Rabin cut short a visit to Britain today to fly home in the aftermath of a devastating bomb blast in Tel Aviv.

A clearly shocked Mr Rabin was given the news during an interview on BBC Radio and immediately made plans to leave.

He held rushed talks with Labour leader Tony Blair as scheduled before pulling out of an appearance at the Oxford Union scheduled for late afternoon.

The Prime Minister, who met Mr Rabin at Downing Street last night, expressed his revulsion at a bomb attack by Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas which blew apart two packed commuter buses.

Mr Major got through by phone to Mr Rabin to express his sympathy and urged him to continue to work for peace in the Middle East.

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Hamas has vowed to carry on a campaign of terror in order to derail the peace process which has brought a glimmer of light after years of bitter warfare.

Mr Rabin said on hearing of the blast: "It's very bad news. It's a continuation by those who are the enemies of peace, the extreme Islamic terror groups, the Hamas, the Islamic Jihad."

The British Government showed its determination to back peace moves by announcing visits to Israel by Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind tomorrow and by Mr Major next March.

A Downing Street statement said: "The Prime Minister has spoken to Mr Rabin to express his shock and outrage at the bomb attack in the centre of Tel Aviv today.

"He has asked Mr Rabin to convey his deep sympathy to all who have been bereaved and wounded.

"When the two prime ministers met yesterday evening at No 10, the Prime Minister applauded Mr Rabin's courage and determination in promoting the peace process which has brought enormous hopes in the Middle East.

"The Prime Minister utterly condemns the terrorist act today, evidently intended to undermine the peace process. It will cause revulsion throughout the world.

"This despicable act, for which Hamas have reportedly claimed responsibility, should only reinforce our collective determination to see the peace process succeed," the statement added.

General Issues Special Communique

TA1910085094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0841 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Netan'el Semrik—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is an update of the casualty toll in the attack in Tel Aviv. The picture emerging is one of the most serious experienced by Israel in recent years: At least 15 people were killed in the terror attack in downtown Tel Aviv near Dizengoff Square, and over 30 people were wounded. This is the latest update currently submitted by the highest security levels.

Also, here is a special communique just released by Brigadier General Yig'al Pressler, the prime minister's counterterrorism adviser: I appeal to all public transportation drivers to pay special attention to suspicious objects and to proceed at once to inspect your buses. Passengers waiting at bus stations and hearing this announcement are requested to pay attention to their surroundings and to look for suspicious objects.

Shahal Comments on Bus Bombing

TA1910090894 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0817 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Qobi Meydan; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Meydan] Good day Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Meydan] This is one of the most serious terrorist attacks that I can recall.

[Shahal] Yes, this is perhaps one of the most serious terrorist attacks we have ever experienced. Because of its severity, scope, and indiscriminate nature it cannot be viewed as just another terrorist bombing. In my assessment, it constitutes an exacerbation and an expression of the intent to expand the scope of these attacks from areas in Judaea and Samaria to the population center of Tel Aviv. I am shocked by this incident and cannot just let this matter pass. After such an incident, one's immediate thought is to intensify the war against the terrorist perpetrators and their controllers.

[Meydan] It has only been a short while since the explosion occurred and we are only in partial possession of the facts. Could you give us any more information regarding the number of fatalities?

[Shahal] Look, although I received an initial assessment from the police immediately after the incident and decided to cancel my meetings abroad with FBI officials on police issues—I am now back in Israel after only one day abroad—the only thing I can say is that the explosion caused many fatalities and casualties. The police and security forces will undoubtedly have to come up with an appropriate response befitting the scope and significance of this incident.

[Meydan] Were there any warnings or threats received over the past few weeks about possible attacks specifically against Dizengoff Center?

[Shahal] No, we received no information about pinpointed attacks. Ever since the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs, we have had information—and here I would like to differentiate between early warnings and information since one constantly receives data on many issues—which gave a general indication that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was planning an attack within the framework of its declared strikes against civilians, including the possibility of car bombs. However, this data did not come in the form of an early warning. An early warning means that we know about a general location or area and the modus operandi. In such cases this information is relayed to all the police stations and the defense establishment. Ever since the massacre at the Cave of the Patriarchs the Israel Police and the security forces have constantly maintained a much higher level of alert.

[Meydan] Minister Shahal, we have to finish our interview because the reports continue streaming in. Could you just tell us briefly whether or not the information in your possession indicates a continued threat of additional attacks, even after today's bombing?

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[Shahal] In my opinion, a high level of alertness must be maintained after this incident.

[Meydan] Thank you very much, Minister Shahal.

'Suicide Terrorist' Suspected

TA1910091794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] There have been dozens of casualties in the terrorist attack near Dizengoff Square in Tel Aviv. It has been learned from the Israel Police that a large explosive charge exploded aboard a Dan Company bus running the No. 5 route which departed from Tel Aviv's Central Bus Station at 0836 [0636 GMT]. According to initial reports, at least 10 people were killed and 37 were wounded.

According to one eyewitness report, a suicide terrorist may have been on the bus and detonated a bomb he was carrying on his body. Nevertheless, Israel Police sources say that it is not yet clear whether there was a suicide terrorist.

The bus was almost completely destroyed in the explosion and its skeleton went up in flames. Israel Police bomb disposal experts checked the remains of the bus and determined that there were no additional explosives in the wreckage.

Netanyahu Reacts to 'Terrorist' Attack

TA1910093294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0835 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu by Sheli Yehimovich; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Yehimovich] We will now speak to the head of the opposition, Binyamin Netanyahu. Shalom to you.

[Netanyahu] Shalom, on a very difficult day.

[Yehimovich] I understand that you are on your way there, to the site of the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

[Netanyahu] That is correct.

[Yehimovich] Could you give us your initial reaction?

[Netanyahu] First of all, I would like to send my condolences to the bereaved families and wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. I think this is a most serious terrorist attack. We warned of such attacks. The government said it would pull the Gaza scourge out of Tel Aviv, but has been brought back many times over.

I think what must be understood at once is that we now have next to us cities that serve as havens for terrorists, in which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] arrogantly and confidently concocts its murderous plans. Hamas and other prisoners are being released from Israeli jails by the thousands and are allowed to return from Lebanon, where they prepare for such infernos without any restrictions, yet the PLO does not lift a finger against them.

The first thing that must be done at the moment is to immediately ban the departure from Gaza every day of 20,000 laborers; there are dozens of terrorists among them. We called on the government to impose a closure on the Gaza Strip, and I reiterate my call to do this at once, to erect a security fence around it, and to stop the release of prisoners at once. The government must totally change its policy, because today a citizen leaves his home and does not know whether he will return.

Weizman, Tzomet, NRP, Moledet React

TA1910093694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli President 'Ezer Weizman has said that the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv is serious. Although the situation must be assessed on certain issues, the peace process must be pursued, he asserted. He sent his condolences to the bereaved families and called on citizens to be patient and have faith in the future.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu called on the government to impose a closure on the Gaza Strip at once, to erect a security fence around it, and to stop releasing terrorists from prison.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Tzomet, the National Religious Party [NRP], and Moledet hold the Israeli Government responsible for the attack.

Peres on 'Terrible Tragedy'

TA1910095994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0941 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Shlomo Raz in the Knesset building in Jerusalem "a minute ago"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Raz] Before entering the plenum hall a minute ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke on the phone with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is currently on his way back to Israel, and briefed him about the appalling terrorist attack in Tel Aviv. Here is what Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told us:

[Peres] I have just spoken to the prime minister, and he will be back in Israel this afternoon, earlier than scheduled.

A very terrible tragedy has hit us. At this stage, what is being done is what needs to be done; namely, to identify the fatalities, and take the wounded to the hospitals. I think we are all share this terrible grief. I would not like to jump to conclusions based on mere speculations. We

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are studying the material. The Israel Police have organized, the police commissioner is on the scene, and we are getting regular updates here.

[Raz] Mr. Peres, I must ask you: Our nerves are being stretched to the limit. How can we cope and conduct peace negotiations in such a charged atmosphere?

[Peres] We are conducting peace negotiations in order to prevent such events in the future. It will take time, but peace actually is the supreme effort to prevent innocent victims.

[Raz] Do we have any solid information so soon after the terrorist attack as to who perpetrated the attack? Was it a bomb or a suicide terrorist?

[Peres] There are various possibilities, but I do not want to talk about them. It is best to issue solid statements.

[Raz] Several measures were taken in the wake of Nahshon Wachsman's kidnapping, such as suspending the negotiations in Cairo. Do you foresee similar measures on the agenda or is too early to talk about it?

[Peres] I do not yet see.... [pauses] It is too early to talk about it. We do not know where it came from or who did it. I would not like to jump to any conclusions.

'Total Closure' Imposed on Territories

TA1910100194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0952 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced a short while ago that in the wake of the abominable terrorist attack in Tel Aviv, the security forces have imposed a total closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip as of 1100 [0900 GMT] this morning and until further notice.

Security Services Name Man Responsible

TA1910105494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1032 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Report by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The first step taken by the security forces this morning was to impose a total closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip until further notice. Thousands of workers from the Gaza Strip are currently on their way home from Israel. The closure imposed on the Gaza Strip following the murder of Nahshon Wachsman was just lifted on 17 October and now yet another closure is being imposed.

Sources in the territories say that the man responsible for planning this morning's attack is Yahyah 'Ayyash, a resident of the village of Rafat in Samaria. 'Ayyash, known as the engineer, is suspected among other things, of planning the car bombings in Ramat Ef'al and 'Afula and the explosion at the Hadera central bus station. 'Ayyash is wanted by the security services and is considered the most senior 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam terrorist in Judaea and Samaria.

The assessment in the territories is that this morning's terrorist attack in Tel Aviv was perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or Islamic Jihad members in retaliation for the elimination of the terrorist squad that kidnapped and murdered the late soldier Nahshon Wachsman. The group of Marj al-Zuhur deportees claimed responsibility for the attack over loudspeakers from Gaza City's Falastin Mosque. Earlier, they telephoned Qol Yisra'el's offices and claimed responsibility for the attack. [passage omitted]

Peres Briefs Knesset on Bombing

TA1910110794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1018 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Address to the Knesset plenum by Shim'on Peres, acting prime minister and foreign minister—live, broadcast in progress]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] ....dropped Israeli Jews in various places and returned to Tel Aviv's Central Bus Station. At 0815 [0615 GMT] it left the Central Bus Station, this time running the No. 5 route. Thirty minutes later, at 0845 [0645 GMT], the bus reached the vicinity of 99 Dizengoff Street, and a strong explosion occurred. A second bus was driving past the first bus at the time of the explosion, and casualties occurred aboard it as well. Other casualties occurred among people who were sitting in cafes and other outdoors places.

As far as we know at the moment, 16 people were killed and 37 were injured. It is not clear whether the attack was perpetrated by a terrorist or whether the explosion was caused by a bomb—a standard bomb and a very powerful one at that—planted aboard the bus.

[Question indistinct]

[Peres] The bus had earlier driven workers to factories in Israel, returned to the Central Bus Station, and at 0815 it left the station on Route No. 5. As far as I know, there were only Israeli workers on the bus; there were no workers from the territories aboard it.

[Question indistinct]

[Peres] I can only tell you what I know at the moment, and I reiterate that even the information we have at the moment is incomplete and it has hardly been confirmed.

The police are on the scene identifying the bodies and transferring the wounded to hospitals. The police commissioner is on the scene. It has been decided to impose a curfew on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip until the picture becomes more clear.

Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] announced that it perpetrated the attack but, once again, the announcement was conveyed to REUTERS and published in the media.

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This is what we know. We are checking all the information. The prime minister is cutting short his visit in London, and he is due back home this afternoon. Afterward, a cabinet session will be held to discuss all the issues on the agenda.

I do not want to engage in speculation. As for countermeasures, we will await the recommendations of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Israel Police, and the security services, as is customary in such cases. Until then, all I can do is to express on behalf of this House our sincere condolences to the bereaved families and to wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. Nothing unites the people of Israel more than grief. There can be no deeper or more painful grief. This grief and pain is shared by all of us, just as is the resolute determination of this House—I am sure about this too—and the Israeli Government not to waver and to take all that is necessary to find those responsible for this abominable deed and to prevent such deeds in the future.

Chief of Staff Baraq Interviewed

TA1910123094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1115 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at the scene of the bombing in Tel Aviv "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Menashe] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq, once again we have experienced a terrorist attack, this time in the center of Tel Aviv.

[Baraq] This is a very serious event. According to our first impression, it was apparently perpetrated by a suicide terrorist who boarded the bus with a bomb and detonated it. I suppose that the threads will lead to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. This illustrates for the third time in the last 10 days the seriousness of the challenge we are facing. Lots of strength as well as operational and intelligence efforts will be required of us. We may have to reassess our coexistence with the Arabs, which enables the free flow of so many people and materiel into Israel. We may also demand from the Palestinian Authority, and other elements in the region which can do more than they have so far with regard to Hamas, to do so at once. We will not tolerate terrorist attacks as part of Israel's lifestyle.

[Menashe] You initially closed the territories.

[Baraq] We imposed a total closure and Arabs are not allowed out of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Of course, Palestinian Arabs may return to their homes. I suppose that additional operational and intelligence measures will be required, perhaps where our very coexistence with the Palestinians is concerned. I am referring to those Palestinians who are allowed to enter Israel.

[Menashe] Do you have any assessment as to who perpetrated the attack?

[Baraq] My assessment is based on initial impressions from the horrible sight of the bus. My impression is that it was perpetrated by a suicide terrorist, I suppose a member of Hamas, who somehow boarded the bus with a bomb—either stashed in a bag, hidden on his body, or some other way—and at some point detonated it, when he saw that the bus was relatively full and that a second bus was driving past.

[Menashe] Is there any resemblance between this and the attacks in Hadera and in 'Afula?

[Baraq] Is there a resemblance? Indeed, if it was perpetrated by a man who managed to get on the bus with a bomb, then there is a resemblance with the attack in Hadera.

[Menashe] Among the bodies, did you see the body of somebody who may have perpetrated the attack?

[Baraq] In view of the terrible state of the bodies I cannot tell whether such a man was encountered among them. I suppose this will become clear within a few hours when the evacuation of the bodies is completed and the explosives are analyzed.

PLO Representation in Paris Condemns Attack

LD1910113194 Paris LCI Television in French 1100 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian representation in France has strongly condemned this Tel Aviv attack, adding that it is extremely important that the negotiations make progress.

Casualty Toll Rises to 22

TA1910114994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1130 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The casualty toll in the Tel Aviv bombing has risen to 22 dead. Twenty-nine wounded remain in the hospitals, four of them in serious condition and seven in moderate condition.

NRP Submits No-Confidence Motion on Bombing

TA1910121794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Religious Party [NRP] has submitted a motion of no confidence in the government in light of the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the NRP also demands the downsizing of the celebrations scheduled for next week in the 'Arava upon the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan, or its representatives will boycott the ceremony.

'Right-Wing Extremists' Damage Telephone Center

TA1910122694 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Judy Siegel and Raine Marcus]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] An apparent arson attack against a telephone switching center in Petah Tiqva, by right wing extremists, early yesterday morning caused an estimated $8 million in direct damage, Bezek said yesterday.

Damage to the switching equipment disconnected 25,000 phone lines in Petah Tiqva.

Bezek became aware of the incident at 3:30 a.m, when smoke alarms went off at the site. The fire department, police, and dozen of Bezek workers were notified and rushed to the scene.

On the wall of the building, someone had spray-painted the words: "The Jewish intifada has begun. The entire state of lowlifes will go up in fire. Kahana people and Judaea and Samaria. The dog Yitzik (sic) Rabin equals Hitler; the time will come when we get even with him."

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni who visited the facility, said: "Whoever committed this act of vandalism is not only the enemy of peace, but even more so an enemy of the public who belongs behind bars. Only terrorists are able to disconnect 25,000 homes with children, old people, factories, and hospitals."

Bezek director-general Yitzhaq Kaul set up a special team to work around the clock to restore phone service in the area. He apologized for the damage caused by the arsonists.

Companies, institutions and other large customers will be connected to other switching centers until equipment is replaced. Bezek intends to install a digital switching system, that was to be used elsewhere, to replace the destroyed facility.

A special police squad has been formed to investigate the incident described by Sharon police chief Dep. Cmdr. Bertie Ohayon as "very serious."

"We must ensure that this type of anti-establishment incident does not recur in other fields or against other government establishments," he said.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 19 October in a page 10 pool report adds that "responsibility for the arson was assumed by the 'Dov' (Dikuy Bogdim) organization after Bezek distributed telephone cards picturing the handshake between King Husayn and Prime Minister Rabin."]

'Terrorist' Attempts Stabbing in Petah Tiqva

TA1910102094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1010 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] An attempted terrorist attack has taken place in Petah Tiqva. A young Arab man wielding a knife was arrested when he tried to stab passersby. The police took the man into custody for questioning.

IDF Soldier Stabbed by Arab in Jerusalem

TA1910094294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0906 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Live report by correspondent Mikha'el Tuchtfeld in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tuchtfeld] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier has been stabbed in Jerusalem at the corner of Shmu'el Hanagid and Ma'alot. There is a crowd of people at the scene. An ambulance carrying the wounded soldier drove off a minute ago. We have no information about his condition. The soldier was evacuated to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital. Here is Police Commander Arye 'Amit who may be able to give us the initial details:

['Amit] All we know at this time is that an Arab attacked a soldier who was standing in a nearby garden and lightly stabbed him twice with a razor knife. The Arab fled the scene and we are looking for him.

[Tuchtfeld] Do we know anything about the condition of the wounded soldier?

['Amit] He sustained very light injuries.

[Tuchtfeld] Are we now facing a wave of terrorist attacks? First the attack in Tel Aviv and now this?

['Amit] I would refrain from any attempt to categorize things, but one cannot ignore the fact that this is the second terrorist attack in Jerusalem in several days and the serious terrorist attack in Tel Aviv must be borne in mind.

[Tuchtfeld] Are the police deploying in any special fashion in Jerusalem?

['Amit] The police in Jerusalem are well deployed, and now that a demonstration we were deployed to monitor has been canc_led, we can employ these forces for internal security purposes.

[Tuchtfeld] Thank you very much. The details we have at this moment are that a soldier has been stabbed and lightly wounded. That was the information revealed by Police Commander Arye 'Amit. The soldier is currently on his way to Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital.

Rabin Reacts to al-Asad Criticism of Jordan Treaty

TA1910060094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in London yesterday that only secret negotiations will lead to an agreement with the Syrians. British Prime Minister John Major promised to help in the efforts to locate Ron Arad and the three Israeli MIA's from the al-Sultan Ya'qub battle. Our correspondent Yo'av Limor reports from London:

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[Begin recording] [Limor] The only way to negotiate with Syria is in secret talks, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday in a meeting with British Parliament members in London. Rabin reiterated that he is prepared to effect a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but refused to elaborate on its extent or duration.

Reacting to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks in Cairo that Syria will never agree to lease territories to Israel, Rabin said that the Syrian president had better desist from his intransigence to make sure that peace is ultimately attained.

[Rabin] I have no reaction to the Syrian president's remarks. I only want to make it unequivocally clear that the peace agreement initialed by Jordan and Israel determines an international border and states that in the context of peace all the territory recognized by Israel as Jordanian sovereign territory—which we had been holding since 1968—will return to Jordanian sovereignty.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0500 GMT on 19 October carries a recorded report by London correspondent Jerry Lewis, who says that referring to Palestinian criticism of the agreement with Jordan, Rabin "recalled that under the terms of the Madrid conference Israel at first negotiated with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, but the Palestinians then preferred to negotiate separately, without consulting Jordan. Since then, Israel has negotiated on a bilateral basis."

[In a recorded passage, Rabin says: "We don't make conditions to one Arab partner to ask another one. It's their problem. Every one of them is independent and can take decisions on its own. It's not the role of Israel to coordinate between Arab parties."]

[Limor] Immediately after arriving in London yesterday afternoon, Rabin toured the Israeli Embassy which had been damaged in a car bomb explosion two months ago. Later he conferred with British Prime Minister John Major. The two men spoke for about an hour about developments in the Middle East. Major agreed that Iran and Iraq pose a threat to the peace process, and promised that Britain would increase its aid to the Palestinian autonomy in light of the threats looming on it on the part of radical Islam.

Major and Rabin also discussed bilateral trade and the upgrading of Israel's trade agreements with the EU. The British prime minister announced that he would visit Israel in early March 1995.

Another important issue raised in the meeting was Israel's POW's and MIA's. Rabin asked his counterpart to bring Britain's influence to bear in a bid to obtain information about the fate of the POW's and MIA's, and Major replied that the issue is being raised in every meeting senior British officials hold with their Iranian and Syrian counterparts. Major also mentioned that half a year ago he met with Tami Arad, Ron Arad's wife, and promised to pursue the efforts to obtain information about his fate. [end recording]

Peres Denies 'Unofficial Channels' With Syria

BR1910131694 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 19 Oct 94 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Lorenzo Cremonesi in Jerusalem; date not given: "Peres: I Still Believe in 'Arafat"—first five paragraphs are CORRIERE DELLA SERA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem—"We are involved with Syria in a peace process that remains extremely fluctuating. It is more in the air than with its feet on the ground. There are still no negotiations on specific tasks. Our job will be to bring it down from the atmospheric to the topographic level."

This was the same old Shim'on Peres, constantly seeking new objectives, untiring, despite his 72 years, recounting his efforts to achieve the old dream of a "common market" in the Middle East, at last restored to peace.

The day after the peace treaty with Jordan was reached, the Israeli foreign minister was already seeking the best way to exploit the moment of grace and to impart a new boost to the Syrian "track." He agreed to be interviewed at the Foreign Ministry immediately after his joint press conference with Antonio Martino. One minute earlier he was radiant. He gives the best of himself on public occasions. He looks 20 years younger when he can perform the role of the great prophet of peace.

"I came to Jerusalem to congratulate the winner of the Nobel peace prize, only to discover that I must also add my congratulations for the agreement with Jordan," his Italian counterpart told him. He smiled, thanked him, and pointed out that "relations with Italy are fairly good" and that our country has a leading role to play in the "Mediterranean dimension of the European Union" and the building of a new Middle East.

But once in his office, he immediately seemed very tired. His face displayed the lines drawn by sleepless nights over the past 10 days, spent following the frantic pace of events. First, the attack in the heart of Jerusalem, in which two civilians lost their lives. Then the business of the soldier kidnapped and killed by fundamentalists, which kept the entire country with bated breath for almost a week. And last, the award of the Nobel prize and the sudden announcement of the peace treaty with Jordan.

[Cremonesi] Minister, how do you judge the signals coming from Damascus and Syria's decision to allow the final members of the Jewish community to leave?

[Peres] It is not a new decision on the part of the Syrian regime, and in any case it mainly concerns matters of domestic policy. It will not obviate the need to begin difficult negotiations.

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[Cremonesi] Can you confirm the existence of unofficial channels between Jerusalem and Damascus?

[Peres] No, they reject all offers of alternative political channels.

[Cremonesi] Jordan has agreed to exchange territories and even to Israel's leasing certain cultivated areas beyond the pre-1967 borders. Do you think that this kind of peace treaty could also apply to Syria in connection with the Golan heights?

[Peres] Yes. But the Syrians seem unwilling to accept the Jordanian model, and this is part of the problem.

[Cremonesi] What is your assessment of the killing of the Israeli soldier kidnapped by the Hamas fundamentalists last Friday [14 October]? Do you think that Israel had any other options apart from the military one?

[Peres] We absolutely could not surrender to Hamas' ransom. In any case, we were well aware from the outset that any military operation could entail very high costs. It seems to me, however, that Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian police in the autonomous areas behaved very responsibly in this situation. Also the Arab world as a whole proved much more responsible than in the past.

[Cremonesi] Do you think it is possible for Hamas to take part in the Palestinian elections in the occupied territories?

[Peres] Hamas is opposed to Israel's existence, so there is reason to wonder for what purposes it wants to be involved in the elections.

[Cremonesi] But many people argue that the Islamic front is much more divided than some would have us believe. Do you not think that the elections would strengthen the moderates?

[Peres] Perhaps it is not monolithic in the political sense. But a murderer remains a murderer even in a heterogeneous society. I remain convinced that anyone whose aim is Israel's destruction and war is not entitled to take part in building peace.

[Cremonesi] But Hamas enjoys broad support in the Palestinian camp. 'Arafat seems to have been placed in a serious predicament by the demonstrations of the fundamentalists in Gaza, who demand the release of their prisoners and who accuse the PLO regime of being more repressive even than the Israeli occupation regime. Are you not afraid that 'Arafat's new weakness could jeopardize the entire peace process?

[Peres] I do not want to give 'Arafat advice. But he seems much stronger to me, and more in control of Gaza than he may appear. He still enjoys the support of the majority of his voters. On the other hand, I am not even asking the fundamentalists to sign any positive document, such as support for the Oslo accords, for instance. But merely to renounce violence and terrorism.

[Cremonesi] At your press conference you described relations with Italy as "fairly good." Why not "good" or even "very good"? Do the criticisms that emerged in Israel a few months ago concerning the Right's involvement in the Italian Government perhaps still exert a negative influence on relations between the two countries?

[Peres] No, no. I was simply trying to be modest. I meant that Israel judges the new Italian Government on its actions, and hitherto we have had no reason to complain about its attitude to our state or the Jewish people. On the contrary, we appreciate above all Italy's efforts to ensure our integration into the European Union. We are also looking forward to being able to cooperate with Italy and Europe at the international conference on the Middle East, which opens in Casablanca at the end of the month.

Peres, Italian Minister Comment on Syrian Track

TA1810130594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has welcomed the arrival of the chief rabbi of Syria to Israel and the news that Syria is allowing any Jew who so wishes to emigrate. However, Peres was cautious about drawing conclusions from this vis-a-vis the peace negotiations. Peres was speaking after talks with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino, who has just visited Damascus. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Antonio Martino is said to be the most pro-Israeli foreign minister that Italy has had for a long time. He said the progress that has been made in the peace process is largely due to Israeli diplomacy and the personal efforts of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. In Damascus, Martino gained the impression that the Syrians wished to proceed with the peace process. They spoke of the need for total, comprehensive peace, and Martino understood from this that they wished to get into the game:

[Martino] Whether this will then be followed by concrete acts of course no one can tell, but I think it is a positive development that they stressed in so many words that peace—in order to be stable and lasting—must be comprehensive, meaning, including them.

[Katzenell] Foreign Minister Peres was asked whether the leasing of territory, to which Jordan had agreed, could solve the problem of the Golan Heights. Peres did not rule it out, but avoided optimistic predictions about whether the Syrians would agree to it. He welcomed the arrival of the chief rabbi of Syria to Israel, and the news that Syria is allowing any Jew who wishes to emigrate:

[Peres] I see in it a positive step, more than just public relations, and I welcome it.

[Katzenell] Mr. Peres, what implications does the current policy of President al-Asad towards the Jews of Syria—allowing them to leave, we are told, without any restrictions—what implications does this have for Israel's peace negotiations with Syria?

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[Peres] Well, you know, this is not a new policy, it is a policy that Syria has decided already several years ago. There were some ups and downs, and I think it's an important decision for Syria herself to have a policy of an open door, so every person that wants to go out of the country will be permitted to do so. It does not save us the need to negotiate a very complicated issue, which is the peace between us and Syria.

[Katzenell] Peres was asked how Israel would respond at the Cairo talks when the Palestinians again demand the release of more prisoners. He said after the tragic events of the weekend, the murder of Corporal Wachsman, Israel is not going to add to the pool of terrorists by releasing convicted murderers who do not regret their crimes. But he acknowledged that there are different categories among the almost 5,000 Palestinians still in Israeli jails, hinting that some releases can at least be discussed. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 18 October includes a brief interview with Peres by Jack Katzenell on the same occasion. Asked about his impressions of the Italian foreign minister's talks in Damascus, Peres says: "Mr. Martino said that of the four issues on the agenda—namely peace, the timetable, security arrangements, and full withdrawal—the Syrians may evince more flexibility on the issues of timing and security arrangements. He did not see any Syrian flexibility on the issue of withdrawal."]

Al-Asad Said Making 'Creative Effort' in Talks

TA1810142694 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Oct 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Drora Perl and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Contrary to his previous intransigent and uncompromising position, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad made "a creative effort" to overcome the problems in the negotiations with Israel during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest visit. This was revealed by an Israeli source in Washington.

Although no change occurred on matters of substance and despite the fact that the sides have not reached any new understandings, al-Asad's new attitude was reflected in his deliberating style.

The source noted that al-Asad had raised "several interesting ideas" which Israel does not accept at this stage but which are interesting in terms of the change in al-Asad's attitude. The source added that certain points of the Syrian proposals were rejected by Israel, while on other issues, the United States failed in its efforts to persuade him to amend his proposals. Although he was not convinced, al-Asad presented counterproposals, and the whole encounter was characterized by what the source described as a "positive and creative" mood, which left room for "work and hope for the future." [passage omitted]

Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, said yesterday that al-Asad considers it very important not to give the impression that Syria is being left behind. That is why he attaches importance to Christopher's visits, which represent the public facet of the Israeli-Syrian process. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Rabinovich reacted to reports that the remnants of the Jewish community in Syria have been allowed to emigrate. He said this could be included in the positive signs received from al-Asad. "To be true," however, "this is an old chapter of the process which the Syrians perceive first and foremost as a Syrian-U.S. issue."

Syria had promised the previous U.S. Administration that it would allow the Jews to leave and finally fulfilled its promise. This chapter belongs in the past and is not part of the series of public gestures we have been witnessing in the past few weeks as part of the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, Rabinovich noted. [passage omitted]

Syrian 'Displeasure' With Israel-Jordan Accord Noted

TA1810155594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Tamar Landau; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Landau] Ambassador Rabinovich, will the rapid progress in the talks with Jordan in any way affect the progress in the negotiations with Syria or will al-Asad remain cloistered in his ivory tower and not emerge from it any time soon?

[Rabinovich] No, I think it is clear to Hafiz al-Asad and his regime that there are no ivory towers in this region and that a correlation exists between developments in the tracks. As somebody justly said, his trip to Cairo is the main external reaction to an event that caught Syria somewhat by surprise. The Syrians had come to terms with the fact that significant progress was made on the Israeli-Jordanian track and thought an agreement would be signed by the end of the year, as had been believed before. The fact that the agreement was signed as early as October surprised them somewhat and caused them certain displeasure. At the same time, the Syrians recognize that positive momentum on one track of the peace process may have a positive effect on other tracks.

Another point that deserves attention is the use of the word model. I think the Syrians analyzed the contents of the agreement and the fact that we found very creative solutions to questions concerning the use of land and water, and they would like to start signaling that the same creativity that applied to Israeli-Jordanian relations and enabled the breakthrough will not necessarily apply to them. They want to go on record at once, noting that what succeeded between Israel and Jordan will not necessarily succeed between Israel and Syria.

[Landau] Ambassador Rabinovich, thank you very much.

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Prime Minister Holds News Conference on Treaty

JN1810150894 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1242 GMT 18 Oct 94

["Text" of news conference by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali with foreign and domestic correspondents in Amman on 18 October—recorded; italicized passages in English with superimposed translation into Arabic]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers: I am happy to meet with you today to talk about what has been achieved thus far in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. I am very proud to say that we have been able to reach a peace treaty, which clearly expresses that Jordan will regain its legitimate, inalienable rights, which you all know, starting with the land, waters, the refugees and displaced persons issues, security, and economy. Also, this treaty includes appendices relating to several other issues, some of which have been completed while others will be completed in the next few weeks and months. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the king's excellent leadership, constant guidance, and his adamant insistence that Jordan must regain its rights.

The peace treaty that we signed is a treaty for a principled peace. This peace treaty guarantees that every party has won and has won adequately. But, as I have said in several meetings before, what one may gain may be material or moral, and it may be immediate or may come later. I think that this was clearly evident in this treaty. In this peace treaty, there are no victors and vanquished. All are winners. His majesty the king has said that yesterday and it has been our position all the time.

Very clearly, Jordan has not relinquished an inch of its territory, waters, or rights in the issues of the refugees and displaced persons, security, and the economic issue.

I do not wish to speak for very long. You may have read it [the peace treaty] through your own ways. The Arab version, or the Arabic text [preceding word in English] will be issued very shortly and we will make it available to you. So far, it has been in English because it was the language used in the negotiations, and therefore, it was drafted in that language with the approval of the two parties. Now I will allow the brothers to address any question and I will try to answer it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency: You initialed a peace treaty yesterday. Can you brief us on the most prominent points in this treaty?

[Al-Majali] Brother Sa'id, or Sa'd, as you said, I believe this treaty contains 25 articles covering all issues. However, the basic issues mentioned; namely, territory, water, and security are clear and lengthy, and you will read them when you receive your copy, if you have not received it yet. Everything is obvious, and the rights and solutions are clear and unequivocal.

[Muhammad Ghunaym, Voice of America] Your Excellency the Prime Minister: Do you believe that Jordan's signing of the treaty will adversely affect the Syrian track? Will it affect Jordanian-Arab relations?

[Al-Majali] First, as far as Arab coordination is concerned, I would like to say that Jordan did not and will not at all abandon coordination with its Arab brothers. However, all our attempts to achieve such coordination have regrettably failed. Thus, we had to attain what we attained. Meanwhile, we hope coordination will continue.

The other part of the question; namely, will this have a negative or positive impact on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks? I believe it will have a positive effect, because this treaty has proven to the people in the world who believe that peace cannot be reached, that the possibility of reaching peace has become real.

[Mary Curtis, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES] *I wonder if you could tell us if you believe that Jordan, or that the Government of Jordan [words indistinct] is now engaged in some of an information campaign to prepare the Jordanian people to the opening of an Israeli Embassy in Amman? Or do you believe people are psychologically ready for this step?*

[Al-Majali] *Well, I believe that we should not make premature judgment of events. This document was approved by the cabinet this morning, and later it will be submitted to the House of Representatives. The next step will be issuing a royal decree endorsing the treaty. The Jordanian people have long believed in peace. Now that peace has come, I believe the Jordanian people are ready for peace. Naturally, it is the duty of the government to clarify things to the people regarding the treaty. We do not conceal anything from our people. The people have the right to know everything pertaining to the treaty.*

[Correspondent] *Do you believe that the opposition in Jordan will create a problem preventing the signing of such a treaty?*

[Al-Majali] You asked this question yesterday, and you repeat it today. The peace treaty should take its constitutional course. We cannot anticipate what will happen. However, such matters should take their constitutional course. Here, in Jordan, we have a democratic system. Our people are free to express their opinions regardless of their positions whether they are in the private or public sector. Everyone can express his view and can have his voice heard. If the majority of the Jordanian people do not agree on this treaty, it will not be done.

[Correspondent] [Passage indistinct] On the other hand, are there any details on the refugees and Jerusalem issues in this agreement?

[Al-Majali] First, the agreement was submitted to the cabinet this morning. The cabinet discussed it and decided to approve it and authorize the prime minister to sign it.

Regarding the Jerusalem issue, there is an article [preceding word in English] whose text is the same as that in the Washington Declaration, and there has been no change in it. We believe that the Jerusalem issue—especially since the Palestinian brothers have delayed the

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talks on this issue until the final negotiations are held ...[pauses] this is a critical time. The Palestinian brothers entrusted us with the religious jurisdiction when ties with the West Bank were disengaged. In 1967, we agreed with Israel on this issue. We cannot surrender this jurisdiction to something unknown, so we should keep it until they [the Palestinians] can hold negotiations on this issue. We will respect and appreciate what they attain.

[Nabil Hisham, AL-ASWAQ] Mr. Prime Minister: His majesty the king has spoken about the return of the Jordanian rights in full. These inalienable rights mean 385 square km. The Israelis, on the other hand, talk about 350 square km....

[Unidentified individual, interrupting] ... 300, 300...

[Hisham] ....350 square km. What are the minor reciprocal modifications?

[Al-Majali] First, if we want to start discussing what the press is saying, sometimes 300, sometimes 350, 200 or 350.5 [pauses] those who know the facts are those who take measurements on the ground. However, I tell you very clearly, we will not relinquish a single centimeter. The treaty did not relinquish a single centimeter of Jordanian territory. What is important is that we will not relinquish a grain of soil.

[Sa'd Hattar, AFP] What is Jordan's position on the Palestinian National Authority's decision to appoint a new mufti for Jerusalem less than 24 hours after Jordan announced the appointment of a new mufti. One more question, how many appendices does the treaty have?

[Al-Majali] As for the first question, the Palestinian brothers, the authority, we cannot interfere in their domestic affairs or decisions. The authority makes its decisions freely. We, on our part, are a free state which makes decisions in accordance with the charters and the duties entrusted to us. I do not think there is a conflict, it is not a conflict.

As for the appendices, there are many, and I do not know the exact number [an unidentified individual informs him that the number is five] ....five appendices so far. But it will have other appendices relating to the other issues when they are completed and they will become part of it.

[Correspondent] *Do you expect this peace treaty to increase the world economic support to Jordan and that Jordan will receive further financial aid? Second question, what about the refugees' right to return to their original country? Has the treaty covered such a point?*

[Al-Majali] *Thank you very much for this question. I am ready to answer it. We have world support. U.S. President Clinton has stated that clearly, that he is ready, that the United States is ready to support the Jordanian economy in the form of easy loans and grants in order to increase the per capita income in the country. We initialed the treaty only yesterday. His majesty the king and Prime Minister Rabin invited U.S. President Clinton to attend the ceremony marking the signing of the final treaty. I think that the signing of this treaty will coincide with a major international economic aid to Jordan.*

As for the refugees' right to return to their country, it is clear that it was agreed that the refugees problem will be resolved on the basis of the international law. We do not face only the problem of the refugees [from the 1948 War], but also a problem of displaced persons [from the 1967 war], and the international law will be applied in this regard, particularly the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. This problem, the problem of the refugees and displaced persons, will be solved properly. Until that solution is achieved, the question that arises is how to help them live a decent life. As you know, the majority of them live in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon...

[Correspondent, interrupting] *[Question indistinct]*

[Al-Majali] *We are trying to find the proper means to alleviate the suffering of the refugees and displaced persons. The Oslo agreement stipulated that a solution must be reached to this problem, the problem of the displaced people.*

[Al-Jawhari, Qatari AL-SHARQ] Prime Minister: What does the treaty stipulate in regard to the refugees and displaced persons, especially since the Palestinian-Israeli agreement agreed to postpone discussion of this problem.

[Al-Majali] Thank you. I have made it very clear that there is a major article concerning that issue. You will acquire a copy of the treaty to read. I have not memorized it by heart. The refugee issue is an important issue which concerns several parties. We believe that resolving the refugee issue should be based on international law, which comprises all UN Security Council and UN General Assembly resolutions. Therefore, this is the base [preceding word in English]. This issue will be discussed. We will discuss with others the final solution of the refugee issue. Concerning the other issue—the evacuees [1967 Palestinian refugees] issue—there is an article in the Oslo agreement which provides for the formation of a four-party Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli-Egyptian committee to work out all ways and methods to resolve the evacuees issue.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, if you would permit me: You had announced that Jordan would not sign any treaty, but that a treaty would be reached to be signed collectively with other Arab countries or after the concerned Arab parties arrive at treaties. What has changed?

[Al-Majali] What has changed is that, as I said a short while ago—but you keep repeating the same question time and again—coordination attempts were not successful. Therefore, it is meaningless to wait indefinitely. But we believe that there is movement ahead. We most sincerely hope that the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks will find a solution soon so as to show that the process is a comprehensive one. Moreover, even in the treaty itself, we speak of a comprehensive, peaceful solution.

[Name indistinct, THE WASHINGTON POST] *Mr. Prime Minister, will you spell out for us in detail the water agreement between you and Israel and how will you share water?*

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[Al-Majali] *It will need two conferences to detail the agreement. But in general, there are two rivers, the River Jordan and al-Yarmuk River. Regarding the al-Yarmuk river, we have agreed to return to the Johnston plan of the early sixties. According to that plan, Israel's share was set at 25 million cubic meters of the al-Yarmuk River waters. Because we do not have huge storing capacity to prevent floods, we cannot receive this huge quantity all at once. There is the winter period and the summer period. We need more water in the summer period than in the winter period. Therefore, water will be stored by Israel in Tiberias and pumped to us according to our needs until we overcome the problem of water storing capacity. This is the principle, but naturally, the principle is based on the fair distribution of water for both parties.*

[Name indistinct, Jordan Television] Do you have an idea about which international personalities will be invited to the attend the signing ceremony? Is it true that the signing ceremony will take place somewhere in Wadi al-'Arabah, as Israel announced?

[Al-Majali] First of all, most probably—for there is nothing absolutely certain these days—the ceremony will take place in Wadi al-'Arabah or elsewhere. So far, only Mr. Clinton has been invited and he has accepted the invitation. We have had no time to sit and talk about other issues. However, you will be informed about what will be decided. Perhaps it is not very useful to divulge information prematurely. When something is decided, you will be informed.

[Musa al-Azra'i, Omani News Agency] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you view the Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian relations following the signing of the peace treaty next week? The other question: How do you view the effect of this treaty on Arab relations with Israel? And will it be a factor to accelerate such relations, particularly since the Israeli Foreign Ministry director noted two days ago that imminent relations will be established between Israel and some Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf? Thank you, sir.

[Al-Majali] When the treaty is ratified and executed many things will occur, such as the opening of embassies and discussing the issues of trade, tourism, telephones, civil aviation, and many other issues. The world has changed; there is a basic change. When you resolve your issues and obtain your rights the relationship will become normal. This is of course the state relationship. However, we can ask everyone to start normalization. Each person works with his own freedom.

As we notice, there is a continuous change in the relationship with the Arab countries, whether with Morocco, with the Tunisians, with Qatar, with Bahrain, and with Oman. You cannot expect the change to come automatically; it needs time. However, things will gradually become better.

[Correspondent] *Mr. Prime Minister, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said that one of the appendices of the treaty provides that Jordan and Israel should coordinate regarding any decisions taken by the Palestinians and Israelis on their economic relations. What is your comment on this?*

[Al-Majali] *Our talks with Israel are based on an agenda, a specific agenda. Talks are also being held between the Israelis and Palestinians. Regarding the relationship, or talks, between the Jordanian and Palestinians, there are still many suspended problems that must be resolved. Palestine is not yet a state. Therefore, coordination should cover all matters. Unfortunately, up to now we have not been able to discuss these problems in depth with the Palestinians. I here mean that we should know about the issues and problems that concern Jordan when these issues are being discussed by the Palestinians and Israelis.*

[Correspondent] There is no doubt that, as of next week, Jordan will enter a new phase in its life in the region following the signing of the peace treaty. The question is: Will we witness a cabinet reshuffle to cope with this strategic change in the next stage?

[Al-Majali] This government is the one that concluded the treaty. If another government concluded the treaty we would say that it should be changed.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: [words indistinct] that Jordan and Israel agreed on border demarcation in accordance with British mandate borders between Jordan and Palestine. However, he said that some adjustments were made. Would you tell us about these adjustments [words indistinct]?

[Al-Majali] As you know, the border begins at a certain point on the coast of al-'Aqabah, extends along the valley, the Dead Sea the Jordan River, al-Yarmuk River, until the Syrian-Jordanian border. This is our description of the border. Now, this description will be drawn on the ground. The border areas are not that vital and there is no oil in the ground to be a subject of difference. The occupation caused some development [preceding word in English] in some of these areas. Some of these areas were reclaimed. There is not a single settlement in this area. There are some farms. When an agreement was reached, it was decided that if these farms remain with one party, the other party will be given an equal area on the other side. This is what they call rectification [preceding word in English]. Now, an internationally recognized line is being drawn.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: Jordan attaches great importance to the Casablanca economic conference. Given the initialing of the treaty and the forthcoming visit to Jordan by U.S. President Clinton, not to mention the assumption that talks might have been held on the Casablanca conference over the past two days, what does Jordan expect to obtain from this conference in terms of projects, financing, and other gains associated with the peace process?

[Al-Majali] First, with regard to the Rabat [as heard] conference, it was scheduled to have been held in Jordan in April 1993. But, because a complete peace agreement had not been attained then, we would have been unable to receive all delegations. Hence, we apologized. And that is why it will convene in Rabat [corrects himself] Casablanca. I believe that another conference will be

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held next year. The Casablanca conference is extraordinary. For scores of heads of state will attend this conference. Nonetheless, the cosponsors of this conference are the cosponsors of the peace conference; namely, Russia and the United States. Heads of state, prime ministers, as well as businessmen and economists have been invited to this conference. Rarely are such conferences held. I think that thousands of people will attend this conference. Hence, the preparations for this conference are huge. Draft projects will be submitted. The businessmen, decisionmakers in the business community, as well as statesmen, political policymakers will get acquainted with these projects so that the political and economic aspects of the projects can be interconnected. It goes without saying that the region whose development will be debated is ours. We are at the heart of the topics to be discussed. Moreover, we have huge draft projects that will be submitted there so that they may obtain financing and donations from the countries that will be sending delegations to this conference. Hence, it is our hope that an economic relaxation will be obtained at this conference. We will inform the delegations of our current state of affairs. Our delegation will be huge and appropriate. It will be headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. It will also comprise several cabinet ministers and other officials. Jordan has conducted sufficient studies that will be presented to this conference.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] the private sector in the conference?

[Al-Majali] The private sector's participation in this conference will be huge. We will not force private sector businessmen to go to Casablanca. They will be free to go there of their own volition.

[Correspondent] With regard to the Jordanian Parliament, Mr. Prime Minister, will the draft treaty be submitted to the Parliament in the first session it will hold when it reconvenes. What are your expectations with regard to the opposition?

[Al-Majali] First, the ordinary session of the Parliament will be inaugurated on Saturday, 22 October, by a speech from the throne. The speech from the throne will include paragraphs on peace. It is true that the draft treaty will be submitted to the House of Representatives, which will decide on it. The government cannot force its views on the House. It will submit the draft treaty to the House as a bill to be ratified. This might take place next week, a week after that, or some other time. It is the House which will decide on the issue; and we have no authority over the House.

[Correspondent] Now that the draft peace treaty has been initialed, what is currently taking place in the city of al-'Aqabah?

[Al-Majali, laughing] Some brothers believe that the negotiations are that simple. The negotiations will continue for one year or longer. As a matter of fact, we are demanding that an agreement on some issues be finalized within nine months time, or six months time. Negotiations are still required. Minute and numerous details still need to be finalized. Do you think that the negotiations have been terminated by the mere initialing of the draft treaty?

[Correspondent] *[words indistinct] reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Jordan, do you believe that it was possible to initial this treaty earlier?*

[Al-Majali] *I believe that the relations between Jordan and other Arab states are fraternal. In the near future, these ties will be normalized.*

[Correspondent] In a meeting with his majesty the king, the Arabs of 1948, Israeli Arabs, asked him to facilitate their visits to Jordan so that they may maintain their contacts with the Arab nation via Jordan. Now that this treaty has been initialed, will the borders be opened to allow Jordanians and Israelis, including Israeli Arabs, to cross into Jordan and vice versa?

[Al-Majali] Brother Sa'd, when you sign a treaty and problems get out of the way, Israelis will be able to visit Jordan, and Jordanians will be able to visit Israel. Given this, it will be only natural for Arab brothers to visit Jordan. As a matter of fact, I do find the question strange. Whoever wants to cross into Jordan will have no problem. Right now, there are certain restrictions, because the peace treaty has not been signed yet. Therefore, the implementation of the treaty has not begun. That is why there are problems. But once the problems are removed, things will be easy. We have every desire to aid our brothers there, and to extend to them every possible assistance, as we have been assisting the fraternal Palestinians.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Now that a peace treaty has been initialed, there will be attempts to attract funds and investments into Jordan. It is feared that peace will be in the interest of the other party. Does Jordan intend to change or amend laws in such a way that allows investments to flow into Jordan? Thank you.

[Al-Majali] Certainly, many of the restrictions which used to exist in some laws for political reasons, I believe, should be removed once peace prevails. If you want investments to come in, you should remove obstacles to investment. This is especially true since one of our major concerns in Jordan is unemployment and poverty. Unemployment and poverty, generally speaking, are interrelated. How can we solve this problem without investment, be it domestic, Arab, or foreign? If you place obstacles before investment, there will be no investment, and unemployment and poverty will persist. Unemployment and poverty can be removed by introducing numerous incentives for domestic, Arab, or foreign investment. Therefore, you should encourage rather than discourage investment. Obstacles used to exist because of the prevailing political situation in the region.

[Name indistinct, AL-RA'Y] Mr. Prime Minister: Does this mean that in light of the treaty that was signed yesterday there is a possibility that Israeli companies will be allowed

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to invest in Jordan and Jordanian companies allowed to invest in the other side? Will this, economically, affect the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement?

[Al-Majali] First, this will have no effect. The article covering economic issues says that negotiations will be held in that regard. Bases have been laid down, but they do not specify companies, Israeli or otherwise. Such issues will be defined in the course of the detailed negotiations. Of course, the future will be bright for everyone, God willing.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister: How will subsequent differences in the negotiations be overcome after the signing?

[Al-Majali] There is a clear clause in the treaty which states that in case differences emerge, there will be negotiations [preceding word in English]. If no agreement is reached, there will be arbitration [preceding word in English].

Final Peace Treaty Signing, House Approval Viewed

JN1810192594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 94 pp 1, 22

[Report by Ahmad Shakir]

/[FBIS Translated Text] The signing of the finalized Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty is expected at the end of next week in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn, U.S. President Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and other leaders. The signing ceremony may be held at the Jordanian-Israeli border in either the crossing area between al-'Aqabah and Elat or in the Wadi al-'Arabah area.

Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin initialed the treaty at al-Hashimiyah Palace yesterday in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and ranking officials from both countries.

The Israeli prime minister's visit to Jordan, which lasted 23 hours, including nine hours of talks with his majesty the king, led to the initialing of a draft peace agreement worked out by the Jordanian and Israeli teams.

The six-page agreement, written in English, will be referred to the Council of Ministers in a session scheduled for today. It will also be referred to the House of Representatives in the new parliamentary session, which will be inaugurated on Saturday by His Majesty King Husayn, who will deliver the speech from the throne. The King will review in his address the details of the agreement, which is expected to be approved by a House majority. Some 55 deputies had earlier voiced support for the peace process.

From a constitutional point of view, Article 33 of the Constitution stipulates that the king is the person entitled to declare war, make peace, and conclude treaties. As for the agreements and treaties that may incur expenses for the state budget or prejudice the public or private rights of Jordanians, they will be effective only after endorsement by Parliament. Under no circumstances may the secret conditions of any treaty or agreement conflict with the public ones. This stipulation means that the deputies will endorse the agreement after it has been signed by the king.

Informed sources say that the frequent meetings between King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin, and the meeting between Prince Hasan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last month in Washington, gave momentum to the talks between the two countries. The two leaderships made conclusive decisions to resolve the outstanding issues pertaining to water, land, and border demarcation.

The sources add that Jordan and Israel had to reach an agreement before the Casablanca Middle East economic summit, set for 30 October, in order to provide a real opportunity for investors, states, and corporations to set up investment projects in Jordan and Israel. The conclusion of a final peace treaty would create an atmosphere of security and the two countries' borders will become international.

It is expected that the official signing ceremony will be followed by practical steps to facilitate the movement of the two countries' nationals [across the border], to open embassies in Amman and Tel Aviv, to remove all obstacles for investors, and to lift the bilateral boycott.

The informed sources also said that Jordanian-Israeli committees will be set up to implement the Jordanian-Israeli agreement. They said that the demarcation of borders between the two countries will be finalized next week and that a large number of sign posts and concrete barriers have been prepared for this purpose, they added.

The sources expect the first Israeli plane to land at Queen Alia International Airport and the first Jordanian plane at Tel Aviv Airport early next year, heralding the start of a new year of peace.

Some sources said many Arab and international figures will be invited to partake in the grand ceremony which could be held on Thursday, 27 October, in either al-'Aqabah, Elat, or Wadi al-'Arabah. These figures include U.S. President Bill Clinton, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Russian foreign minister, representatives of Arab and friendly states, and official and public figures from Jordan and Israel.

His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin are expected to sign the final agreement. U.S. President Bill Clinton is expected to sign as a witness. He signed the Jordanian-Israeli agreement concluded in Washington last July as a witness.

Israeli Likud Leader Congratulates Prince Hasan

JN1910090494 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (PETRA)—Benyamin Netanyahu, head of the Israeli opposition Likud Party,

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Monday [17 October] evening called His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan by telephone to congratulate him on the initialling of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Mr. Netanyahu voiced his full backing for the treaty and congratulated the Jordanian and Israeli people for its conclusion, stressing that Likud's official stand would be defined after the party has learnt of its details. The Crown Prince thanked the Likud leader for his initiative, expressing hope that the peace treaty would serve as a step towards safeguarding the interests of the two countries and the rest of the region and one more step towards a comprehensive peace.

Italy's Martino Welcomes Accord With Israel

JN1910065094 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino has arrived in Amman on an official working visit to Jordan within his tour in the Middle East region that took him to Egypt, Syria, Israel, and the Palestinian self-rule authority.

Mr. Martino welcomed the draft peace accord signed between Jordan and Israel on Monday [17 October], adding it was a big step towards achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. He expressed hope that the accord will lead to more progress to the region's people.

The Italian minister said that he will discuss with the Jordanian officials the latest developments in the Middle East peace process as well as bilateral relations between Jordan and Italy. He described his talks with senior officials in the countries he visited before Jordan as positive and fruitful.

Initialing of Peace Treaty Said 'Qualitative' Step

JN1810191194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 94 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "A Qualitative Step on the Road of Hope"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Reaching and initialing a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel is another qualitative step on the road of hope. This is a road which we chose willingly and with full national awareness that it is important to achieve peace for the peoples of this region for whom it is time to learn how to live without tension and conflicts.

Reaching this agreement concludes Jordanian efforts that took years and is a successful end to a serious and arduous negotiating effort during which Jordan adhered to its national constants, reiterated its sovereign rights, drew strength from domestic consensus, and was guided by the bases of international legitimacy.

Hence, the treaty, which was initialed yesterday is the first point and the beginning of a desired development in which our people see an end to their pain and through which they aspire for a future that promises security, stability, development, social prosperity, and, above all, the restoration of all political rights.

At the same time, we hope that this important historic development in the relations between Jordan and Israel will be a broad platform for the promotion of peace values within the Israeli society, which has long been brought up on hatred and discrimination against Arabs. We also hope for the disappearance of the mentality of occupation, expansion, and hegemony over the surrounding environment.

We view the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which was initialed yesterday, as a big event in itself. At the same, time we hope that reaching this agreement will help push the peace process forward on all the other Arab-Israeli negotiating tracks. This is especially so since Jordan believes that a real peace is a just and comprehensive peace acceptable to the peoples and by whose results they abide and which they defend.

Parties Laud Hamas, Reject Normalization With Israel

JN1810191594 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 94 p 27

[FBIS Translated Text] Seven Jordanian parties have issued a statement greeting the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions [the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas] and all the strugglers who raise the banner of resistance in the occupied lands. The statement said that establishing relations with the Zionist enemy and lifting the boycott only serve the Zionist scheme at the expense of our nation.

The seven signatories are: The Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Islamic Action Front Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, and the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party.

The statement said: The seven parties have taken note of the heroic operation by the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions, which led to the capture of a Zionist soldier in order to draw the attention of the world opinion to the suffering of more than 5,000 Palestinians jailed in the occupation prisons and to demand the release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, along with a group of Palestinian and Arab prisoners. The parties have also taken note of the Zionist deception, which led to an armed confrontation between the heroic mujahidin of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions and the Zionist enemy troops last Friday, in which three of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions were martyred. Moreover, the Zionist captive was killed and a large number of enemy soldiers were killed or injured.

The parties said: The government of the Zionist enemy has continued its hostile, repressive policy against our people and fighters. It refused to meet the demands of the mujahidin to release Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and a number of Palestinian prisoners. It insisted on a bloody armed confrontation and was preparing for an attack despite its false, deceitful claims that it was ready to negotiate. It caused the death of the captive soldier and a number of enemy soldiers,

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paying no heed to the feeling of all those concerned—be they the family of the captive soldier or the families of the Palestinian captives—and ignoring all human values at times of war or peace.

The parties also denounced the U.S. positions and said: The concern expressed by the U.S. Government, represented by the U.S. President and his state secretary, about the captive Zionist soldier underscores the constant U.S. support for the Zionist entity and hostility to the aspirations of the Arab nation. While voicing concern about this Zionist captive, the United States is overlooking the suffering of more than 5,000 Palestinian captives living under extremely harsh conditions.

They said: We believe that the self-rule administrative authority's policy of storming houses and arresting hundreds of people is an attempt to abort our people's spirit of resistance. The continuation of resistance is an expression of our people's right to liberate their lands.

The parties added: Jordan's signing of the Washington Declaration and continuing the policy of normalization with the Zionist enemy give the enemy more strength and help it deal with the Palestinian people single-handedly.

Brotherhood Praises Hamas Wachsman Operation

JN1910094494 Amman AL-SABIL in Arabic 18-24 Oct 94 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Brotherhood Movement in Jordan has issued a statement on the Bi'r Nabala operation in occupied Palestine. The statement says: Everyday the soundness of our attitude toward the spiteful and deceitful Zionist enemy, which does not respect covenants and pledges, becomes clearer to our governments and peoples. The enemy troops besieged the heroes of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Battalions to rescue the captured Jewish soldier at a time when the Battalions heroes were keen on sparing the soldier's blood and on releasing him in return for releasing Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and the Palestinian women prisoners, and at a time when the Battalions agreed to extend the period given before the execution of the soldier. The enemy pretended acceptance of negotiations and conditions. However, the operation backfired on them.

But the plotting of evil will hem in only the authors thereof [Koranic verse]. The result was that the mujahidin won martyrdom and victory, and Rabin lost because the soldier and the commander of the unit were killed and others were injured.

Proceeding from these facts, we would like to declare to our people and nation our unwavering position as expressed in the following points:

1. Jews remain Jews, known for their malevolence, deceitfulness, and treachery. The only way to deal with them and defeat them is through jihad.

2. Any capitulative agreements with the enemy will not curb its desire to pursue the implementation of its expansionist plans or its work for the realization of the Zionist scheme, God forbid.

3. We hold the Zionist enemy and the Palestinian Authority responsible for what happened and what will happen to our heroic Palestinian people as a result of the siege imposed on them, their starvation, the arrest of prominent figures, and the denial of their right to liberate all their national soil and holy places and eliminate occupation.

4. We urge our people in Palestine—all of Palestine—for greater cooperation with and support for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and all other sincere and national figures and forces opposing the enemy. We also call on them to avoid any sedition that may lead, God forbid, to internecine fighting.

5. We condemn the so-called self-rule authority, headed by 'Arafat and his bodies, for their suspicious role in providing the Zionist enemy with information facilitating the discovery of the mujahidin in Bi'r Nabala. We also condemn the large-scale arrest campaign and collection of weapons in the Gaza Strip.

6. We caution all Arab and Islamic governments and regimes against sinking into dreams or falling prey to sugar-coated promises about the blessings the so-called peace will bring to the region. They should realize that the peoples' will is invincible and that God's will and promise will inevitably be fulfilled. The Jews will never have security or peace in our countries so long as we have heroes like those who were martyred in the Bi'r Nabala operation.

Greetings to the 'Izz al-Din-al-Qassam Battalions and to the steadfastness of the heroic Palestinian people. God's blessings be upon you, O martyrs.

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Al-Asad, Official Delegation Return From Egypt

JN1810201794 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1842 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and his accompanying official delegation returned to Damascus this evening following a visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt where he held talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Remarks on Israel-Jordan Supported

JN1910100194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary under the headline "The Honorable Pan-Arab Stand," the newspaper TISHRIN says: At the news conference he held with President Mubarak following their talks in Cairo, President al-Asad stressed Syria's continued rejection of the policy of separate deals, which constitutes a deviation from the constants of the Arab solution to the Middle East crisis. He also said that coordination will continue with Lebanon, and that Syria and Lebanon are in one trench. Al-Asad stressed Syria's adherence to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN highlights President al-Asad's clear reaction to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, which provides for the leasing of Jordanian territory to Israel. He said: Syria will never agree to lease any part of its territory, no matter how small it may be. In fact, it is blasphemy for any homeland to talk about leasing its land to others. We will not relinquish one inch of the homeland's soil, and there will be no peace without the restoration of the territories in full.

In its comment under the headline "The Entrenched Peace Principles," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: A just and comprehensive peace will continue to be the major objective that Syria has always sincerely worked toward and is still working to achieve, proceeding from a firm and entrenched faith in the fact that this peace is the only means to achieve the nation's aspirations.

AL-BA'TH points to the serious violations of the peace process on several levels as a result of certain sides' separate deals and deviation from the principle of unanimity and the comprehensiveness of the objective.

Al-BA'TH says: The partial and separate solutions that have been achieved at the expense of the nation's rights and in favor of Israel have always been unable to achieve the aspired objectives of the peace process. In fact, these solutions will lead to Israel's expansion in the Arab region. Israel seeks to control the region and to turn it into a zone of economic and cultural influence.

AL-THAWRAH writes on the serious breakthroughs Israel has been scoring, which it says are not due to its strength, but due to the result of Arab weakness and the absence of consultations and coordination among the Arab parties. Israel exploits this by maneuvering on the tracks on the one hand, and by pressuring the other Arabs to achieve gains by establishing diplomatic relations, lifting the boycott, normalizing relations, and opening borders, on the other.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Israel prefers its gains to a just and comprehensive peace, and exercises all forms of pressure on Syria to obtain concessions as the Israeli officials imagine. However, old and current facts prove that Syria will not submit to pressure or blackmail, or agree to bargain on its territory and rights and all the Arab territories and rights.

NPF Supports Peace Position, Criticizes Iraq

JN1810212994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front [NPF] held a meeting at 2000 yesterday. Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, NPF deputy chairman, presided over the meeting.

The command heard a comprehensive political report presented by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in which he reviewed latest political Arab, regional, and international developments.

The Central Command discussed the current political situation and focussed on a host of issues led by the peace process, which continues to falter and confront obstacles fabricated by Israel to avoid reaching the aspired objectives.

The command expressed support for the Syrian peace policy which is based on commitment to principles, constants, and bases approved by the international community and which calls for full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, foremost of which is the Golan and south Lebanon.

The command said this policy, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, expresses Syria's firm commitment to its national and pan-Arab responsibilities, and its seriousness in dealing with the peace process in a positive manner that will eventually lead to just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option.

The Central Command also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf region in light of the military movements carried out by the Iraqi regime, and said the policy adopted by this regime is a continuation of the mentality that inflicted the gravest dangers and damage to Arab solidarity and the higher pan-Arab interests.

The NPF Central Command greatly appreciated the policy of President Hafiz al-Asad and his efforts to defend the Arab rights and pan-Arab future. This policy underscores Syria's commitment to the greater national and pan-Arab responsibilities in confronting all crucial challenges our Arab nation is facing.

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Israel Warned on Trying 'To Reap' Fruits of Peace

JN1810183594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1232 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The peace process is approaching the end of its third year since its started at the Madrid Conference without achieving its objective; namely, the just and comprehensive peace. During these three years of the peace process, the world—peoples, states, and public opinion—became aware of the party that is responsible for the lack of any substantial progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and for the gap that separates the Syrian position, which is in harmony with and even identical to the UN Security Council resolutions and the position of Israel, which has not yet made a clear and unambiguous announcement that it is committed to the conditions of these international resolutions; that is, a complete withdrawal from the territories occupied by Israel to the 4 June 1967 borderlines.

It is not difficult to explain this Israeli position. Peace has fruits, which can be reaped only after the requirements and dues of peace are met. Clearly, Israel wants to enjoy the fruits of peace and even reap these fruits immediately without meeting the requirements and dues of peace, which can be summed up in a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian and Lebanese territory.

This Israeli position does not agree with the efforts exerted to achieve the just peace. He who wants to reap the fruits of peace without meeting the requirements of peace is, practically, blocking the road to peace regardless of how far he goes in his ambiguous talking about peace.

Thus, the world is aware of this Israeli position, which is responsible for the failure to achieve peace. The world knows exactly what Syria has done to help initiate the peace process and to rescue that process. The world also knows that the Syrian peace strategy does not allow anyone to gain a single grain of Syrian and Lebanese territory. Furthermore, Syria's peace strategy rejects any situation that would promote the interests of a certain party over the interests of the other party, or that which would provide any party with security or strategic advantages or privileges that are not equal to that provided to the other party of the peace process.

Finally, the fact that the peace process is approaching the end of its third year must prompt the world, particularly the peace process cosponsors, to exert efforts with the party that is obstructing the peace process before squandering another year, the fourth year of the peace process, which is needed by all parties in the region and which represents the world's desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that can guarantee the region's security and stability.

Pakistani Defense Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

JN1810110494 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1830 GMT 17 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus this evening. Leading those receiving him were Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan; Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Turkmani; and several senior General Command officers. After shaking hand with his senior well-wishers, he received two bouquets of roses by two girls whose fathers were martyred. The Army band played the Pakistani and Syrian national anthems and the guest's motorcade then headed for his place of residence.

A meeting was held at the office of the defense minister at 1900 today. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. 'Ali Aslan, and Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hasan Turkmani attended for Syria, and the Pakistani side was represented by the Pakistani defense minister, his delegation, the Pakistani ambassador to Damascus, and the Pakistani military attache at the Pakistani Embassy.

During the meeting, talks centered on cooperation and friendly relations between the Syrian Army and the Pakistani Army and ways of promoting them for the benefit of both friendly countries.

Received by Prime Minister

JN1910071094 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1900 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Pakistani Minister of Defense Aftab Shaban Mirani and his delegation.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister and minister of defense, and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

Mirani relayed to the prime minister the greetings of Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, as well as an invitation from her to Mahmud al-Zu'bi to visit Pakistan. For his part, al-Zu'bi asked the Pakistani minister of defense to relay similar greetings to the Pakistani prime minister, and promised to make the visit with the understanding that a date for it will be set later. The talks addressed the existing ties of cooperation between the two countries and the means to promote them in all areas.

Jewish Leader Denies Remaining Community Emigrating

MM1910092094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Jajati Reconfirms Jews Have Not Left Syria"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus—Yusuf Jajati, member of the Jewish community council in Damascus, who is now the community's acting leader because of community leader Ibrahim Hamra's presence in the United States, has announced that what has been rumored about the departure of the remaining Jewish community—about 300 people—is untrue.

In a statement To AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he said that "that report should be returned with thanks to its promoters. Because we will tonight receive two Jewish families returning from the United States to settle in Damascus. Another family will arrive the day after tomorrow. And three families will arrive next week. They are all returning to settle in Syria, since all requested over the telephone to keep their shops and homes [in Damascus]."

Jajati added: The reports about Syrian Jews' travel abroad is poisonous propaganda. No one will depart, now that they have seen the bad living conditions Syrian Jews are experiencing in the United States. He said: We live here in stability, comfort, and freedom. We have our own stores and merchandise. And some people work in agriculture and industry. He also said: President Hafiz al-Asad offers us special care—which has encouraged others to return to the homeland, Syria, for which we have no substitute. [passage omitted]

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India

New Delhi Welcomes Jordan-Israel Peace Accord

BK1810160194 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Jordanian cabinet has endorsed the peace agreement reached between King Husayn and the Israeli prime minister, Mr. Rabin. [passage omitted]

India has welcomed the peace agreement, saying it raises the hopes of a just and lasting peace in West Asia. An External Affairs Ministry statement in New Delhi also hoped that the treaty will signify a fresh beginning toward settlement of all the issues causing strife in the region.

Kashmir Papers Suspended To Protest Attack

BK1810131694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir valley, all the local dailies have suspended their publications from yesterday in protest against the attack on a printing press by militants on Sunday. The decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of the editors of the local dailies in Srinagar. Militants have been intimidating media persons and forcing them to function according to their dictates.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Policy in Kashmir

BK1810115794 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 17 Oct 94 p 3

[Editorial: "They Want To Keep Us Trapped!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some people consider Ms. Robin Raphel to be a compulsive big talker. But the question to be asked is why is the U.S. Government sending her so often to India? With her habit, there is every possibility that Indo-U.S. ties might worsen instead of improve. This is not the first time a junior State Department official has talked big. In the initial phase of the Clinton Administration, she also made some very indiscreet remarks that the Indian Government found quite hard to digest. Then she declared Kashmir to be a disputed territory right from the beginning. That is, she quite clearly conveyed the message that the U.S. had never treated Kashmir as an integral part of India, now or ever. According to their views, India had been as much the aggressor as Pakistan in Kashmir. But then efforts had been made to soften the impact of her statement by claiming that Ms. Raphel's view did not faithfully represent U.S. official policy. However, when the Indian representatives sought an explanation, the U.S. Administration did not categorically contradict Ms. Raphel's statement or warned its official to be more circumspect in the future. So, Ms. Raphel went on making controversial statements with gay abandon whilst the U.S. Administration continues to send her to the Indian subcontinent. Now she says that looking at the Kashmir situation, it is improper to hold elections there at this juncture. This clearly indicates that although Mr. Clinton and his Secretary of State may not be using Ms. Raphel's words, they have no objections to her making such statements. On the other hand, her repeated trips to India and Pakistan give the impression that whatever she does or says has the tacit approval of the U.S. administration. There is no sense in criticizing her outspokenness or deriding her intemperate language. The main issue is: what objections does the U.S. Government have in our starting the democratic process in Kashmir?

Almost every U.S. representatives who has visited India had only one complaint —that the political right of the people of Jammu and Kashmir was being violated. Ms. Robin Raphel herself has been saying that unless the people of Jammu and Kashmir are inspired to join the political process on their own, all the claims that the Indian Government makes will appear hollow. Many British and German Members of Parliament delegations have advised the Indian Government to restore the civil rights of the Kashmiri people immediately. All these foreign representatives have been unanimous in their view that the political process must begin in the state. India's state minister for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid, accepted this demand at a recent UN conference and promised an early start to the political process. But the moot point is whether polls should be held in a state torn by terrorism. Will it be proper? However, if the Indian Government is willing to take the risk and begin the process, why has the U.S. suddenly raised objections? The leader of the People's League, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, has also issued a statement after his release from jail saying that holding elections now in Kashmir is tantamount to stoking the fire of terrorism. He believes that polls should be held only under direct UN supervision and that they should also be deemed the plebiscite. Shabbir Shah and other secessionists foresee danger to their political lives if elections are held in Kashmir. Does the U.S. anticipate a similar danger? For the U.S., the Kashmir issue is a convenient lever to effectively pressurize India as and when it pleases—especially using the human rights violation bogey, which has proved to be quite a handy weapon. However, if elections are held in Kashmir and the people exercise their franchise, these tools and weapons are sure to be blunted. This is against U.S. interests. Hence, the restive whimpers of U.S. policy which have been faithfully echoed by Ms. Robin Raphel's latest statements.

Iran

Delegation To Visit Iraq To Prepare Velayati Tour

NC1810144294 Paris AFP in English 1249 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 18 (AFP)—An Iranian delegation is due in Iraq on Saturday [22 October] to prepare for a visit by Foreign Minister 'Ali

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Akbar Velayati which has been postponed several times, the minister said in remarks published Tuesday.

The delegation will hold talks with Baghdad to "determine the exact date of my trip" to Iraq, Velayati said, quoted by the Hamshahri newspaper. [punctuation as received]

It will also draw up the future course of discussions between the two neighbors which fought a bitter war from 1980 to 1988.

He said the issue of prisoners of war and the problem of visas for the citizens from the two countries would be discussed.

Tehran has prepared a list of 32,000 Iranians, both soldiers and civilians, it says have been held prisoner or been missing in Iraq since the end of war.

The delegation cancelled a visit to Iraq at the last minute in June to protest Baghdad's support for Iran's main armed opposition group the People's Mujahedeen.

The Iraq-based group was accused of a bomb attack on a holy shrine in Iran in June, which left 26 dead and dozens injured.

Commenting on a dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over three strategic islands in the Persian Gulf, Velayati said Tehran was opposed to taking the case to the International Court of Justice, as requested by Abu Dhabi.

"This is a problem between Iran and the UAE and no third party has the right to interfere," he said.

The dispute over Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb erupted in 1992 when the UAE accused Iran of annexing its part on Abu Musa which had been jointly administered by Tehran and the emirate of Sharja since 1971 in line with a British-brokered agreement.

Abu Dhabi later went on to claim the Tunbs which were also taken over by Iran in 1971.

The islands lie at the entrance to the Hormuz Straits, through which one-fifth of world's crude oil is shipped.

The two countries held negotiations in Abu Dhabi in 1992, but talks collapsed after Iran refused to discuss the Tunbs.

Velayati stressed Abu Musa was an "inseparable" part of Iranian territory, but said Tehran was willing to talk with the UAE to remove "misunderstandings."

Pakistani Interior Ministry Official Visits

Meets With Vice President

LD1810190794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In a meeting with Zafar Iqbal Rathore, deputy interior minister of Pakistan, Mr. Hasan Habibi, first vice-president stressed the need for supervision of the international borders between two countries in order to prevent the smuggling of narcotics and prevent the activities of lawless elements and criminals, in accordance with the international law.

In this meeting which took place this afternoon, Mr. Habibi expressed optimism about the progress of the talks between the two countries' officials on political, security, and legal issues, and stressed the need for cultural cooperation to combat the narcotics contraband which passes through Iran and Pakistan.

At the meeting, the deputy interior minister of Pakistan presented a report on the results of his talks with the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and stressed on the expansion of cooperation in the political, economic, security and legal spheres.

Meets With Besharati

LD1810221494 Tehran IRNA in English 2113 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, 18 Oct (IRNA)—Visiting Pakistani Deputy Interior Minister Zafar Rathore here Monday [17 October] expressed Islamabad's readiness to enhance its security cooperation with Tehran.

Rathore, meeting with Iran's Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, also said preparations should be made to enable border guards of both countries to exchange views continuously in order to remove probable border problems.

Rathore, who has been here since Friday, invited Besharati, on behalf of his Pakistani counterpart, to visit Islamabad.

Besharati in return called as "fruitful" current talks between Iranian and Pakistani officials on ways of broadening bilateral relations.

Besharati in reply said that fortunately there existed no security problems on both sides of Iran-Pakistan border. He also expressed hope that the joint border would remain secure as before.

Regretting that certain bandits on Pakistani soil create tension and insecurity across the border once in a while, Besharati called on the Islamabad government to deal with those elements seriously.

He also blasted the military presence of the U.S. and its Western allies in the Persian Gulf and stressed that the security of the region should be preserved by regional countries themselves.

Official Interviewed on Foreign Affairs Issues

NC1810072494 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 94 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abbas Maleki, head of the Tehran-based Institute for International Political Studies, by AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial staff in Cairo; date not given]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [AL-JUMHURIYAH] How you do assess the current relations between Egypt and Iran?

[Maleki] [passage omitted] We are fully aware of all the current positive and negative aspects in the two countries' relations. But we now want to establish new ties and relations between Egypt and Iran. True, there are numerous obstacles and barriers between the two countries but we have to remove them. We admit that there are differences in the Egyptian and Iranian views. But we also respect the stand of Egypt and its government. We recognize the two countries' right to take stands and voice independent and different views. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What is the main difference between the two countries?

[Maleki] One of the differences is the peace negotiations. I reiterate my respect for Egypt's view and stand while respecting sovereignty, the right to make decisions, and non-interference in others' internal affairs. We believe, though, that Israel does not want to deal with the Arabs on equal footing. We believe that the retrieval of only 3 percent of Palestine on certain conditions infringes on sovereignty and cannot be regarded as a gain that we can claim.

We also believe that the Arabs are rushing toward establishing ties and relations with Israel. We find this amazing, especially as Iran's official stand is based on the premise that Israel lacked legitimacy from the beginning. While we see that all countries are established on a basis of legitimacy and recognition, we see that Israel is the complete opposite. Therefore we do not recognize Israel, and you know the price Iran is paying for this stand.

The United States has a policy toward Iran, the policy of dual containment. It says that Iran should be isolated and deprived of weapons. Pressure is exerted on Iran from all sides and angles. This U.S. policy was drawn up and planned by Anthony Lake, the U.S. President's adviser for national security affairs, and his assistant Martin Indyk. This plan was proposed for the first time at the Middle East Studies Center in Washington, which is a Jewish organization.

We asked in Washington: What is the reason for this U.S. stand toward Iran? The answer was the latter's stand toward Israel. The Americans told us: As to the peace issue, at minimum we want Iran to keep silent.

You note that Iran is coming under U.S. pressure. The Americans are saying that the peace negotiations have been accepted by the whole world except for Iran, which is being the pressured for merely speaking out and declaring its opposition to peace. Yet we are not the only ones who are opposed to it. There are Arabs who oppose the peace.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] But U.S. hostility to Iran precedes the peace negotiations. Is peace the only dispute between Iran and Egypt?

[Maleki] Our difference with Egypt is not over peace but is a difference of views. We received information through several channels that U.S. pressures are caused by the Iranian stand on peace.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Why are there these differences when the Arabs themselves, foremost of whom are the Palestinians, have agreed to conclude peace, have signed peace treaties, or are on their way to do so?

[Maleki] As I have said, we are not alone in our opposition. The main reason is our stance on Israel. The United States stresses that it is not merely the stance of one country. Frankly, these negotiations are taking place from a position of weakness.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] But Khomeyni agreed to a cease-fire with Iraq in 1988 when the balance of power between the two parties was tipped. He spoke his famous phrase: "I agree to a cease-fire as if drinking deadly poison."

[Maleki] We in Iran admit that you are closer to the heat of the conflict in the Middle East, but let us view the difference between the two stances. Iran agreed to a cease-fire in 1988 after it succeeded in regaining all its national territories and its sovereignty over them and when neither a single inch of its territory was under Iraqi occupation nor an inch of Iraqi territory under Iran's control. Compare this stance with the Palestinians' restoration of only 3 percent of their territory in Gaza and Jericho and with conditions. Can you see any similarity between the two stances? We believe that the Arabs have great resources and it is necessary that their decisions be coherent and consistent with their resources, particularly as the Islamic world stands behind the Arab world.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Is this true? Did the Islamic world—with its material resources—really stand by the Arabs?

[Maleki] It is not true; this did not materialize. But let us ask why the Islamic world, with its resources, did not stand by the Arabs. This is because of the relations and arrangements that were established between Israel and the Islamic countries. Some of these countries established ties with Israel very early, and others began their ties later. This clearly affects the unified Islamic and Arab stand. We are not idealistic and we are aware of the reality of the situation in the Arab world. If we handed the Arab market to Israel, Arab natural gas would go to Israel.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Does this mean that Iran's relations with Syria could be affected if a peace treaty were signed by Syria and Israel?

[Maleki] As I have already said we are not the only ones opposed. We can conclude that the fruits of peace are not

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considerable. You maintain that international relations and circumstances have changed after the collapse of the Soviet Union. But don't forget that Egypt began the peace process before the collapse of the Soviet Union. Regarding our relations with Syria, they are very good. Syria has briefed us on developments in the peace negotiations. The Syrians are steadfast and will continue to be. They reaffirmed to us that, as long as they have not regained their rights, they will not sign a peace agreement. We in Iran feel the need to be realistic and pragmatic and must not put pressure on a country such as Syria, which has resisted to this extent. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What about Iran's relations with the Gulf states?

[Maleki] There are, of course, some problems. But we are a country that stresses the values of the revolution. Our Constitution stresses the need to establish good relations with neighboring, Islamic, and developing countries. This is our action program. But if relations with other countries have a negative effect on our values, then we prefer to take an independent stand because Iran did not gain its independence cheaply. One hundred thousand of our men were martyred. The state's progress in Iran was hampered for 15 years because we wanted independence. We have been following a policy of quick development for five years now. National income is rising annually by an average of 7.8 percent. This growth indicates the volume of funds we have invested in industry and defense. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] How much is Iran's defense budget?

[Maleki] Since the war, Iran's military budget has not been large and does not exceed 3 percent of GNP. Egypt might be a unique case because of its position in the Middle East, but there are other countries in the Gulf whose military budgets reach 20 percent, such as the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Our country, Iran, suffered too much throughout the years of war—eight years of destruction.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Iran is regarded as one of four major Middle Eastern countries. How does Iran see the new Middle East? What are the prospects for Egyptian-Iranian cooperation, despite their differences?

[Maleki] Egypt is a major country. I believe that we have broad prospects for cooperation in the future with regard to the Middle East. We will bear the difficulties in the future. But let me say that the future is clear for the Islamic world. We are not the only ones saying so—Western countries are saying this.

We are merely saying that we will not allow Israel to draw the political map of the Middle East's future. We have confidence in ourselves. The Iraq issue will end. I believe that, after several years of misunderstanding between the Middle Eastern countries, these countries will find themselves, and the differences will end. [passage omitted]

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] Will Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati visit Baghdad?

[Maleki] There are still some problems between Iran and Iraq that we must solve together. We are neighbors. Dr. Velayati was scheduled to visit Baghdad within the framework of implementing the UN Security Council resolution. We do not want to go beyond the Security Council resolutions with Iraq.

[AL-JUMHURIYAH] What effects does the new crisis between Kuwait and Iraq have on the region?

[Maleki] We are opposed to any aggression by one party against the territory of another. In the past we opposed the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. But we are also opposed to the policy of double standards. For example, the Serb government in Belgrade is supporting the Bosnian Serbs with funds and weapons. Yet, the sanctions imposed on the Belgrade government were quickly lifted and air flights to Belgrade were resumed.

Iraq believes that it is being forgotten under these circumstances. The latest UN reports confirm that Iraq is expecting a positive reaction.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Returns From Asia

LD1910110394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani returned home this afternoon to Tehran after a week-long tour of three Asian countries: Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia. He was welcomed at Mehrabad Airport by a number of the civil and military officials. [passage omitted]

On arrival to Tehran in an interview with the correspondents, the president expressed his satisfaction at beneficial results of the tour and called it an important step towards the expansion of the political-economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia, Brunei, and Malaysia.

IRNA Cites 'Zionist' Influence on Russian Media

LD1810222194 Tehran IRNA in English 2205 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 18 Oct (IRNA)—Moscow's weekly "AL-QODS" in an article published here warned aganist the Zionist influence on some of the Russian news media and said that the brave Iranian nation under the leadership of the late Imam Khomeyni, has found its way for revival of spiritual and national values and has become a thorn on the side of Zionists and their supporters.

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The article under the title of "Zionism and the news media" has warned against the Zionist impact on some of Russian news media, saying that anyone who criticizes the Zionists will soon be labeled as reactionary.

The article also says that the word of "foundamentalism" has been created by the so-called democratic news media of the Zionists in its propaganda against Islam and they put the name of foundamentalist on those who fight the imperialism of the U.S.

"AL-QODS" in its article has stressed that the Zionist professional liars will not be able to mislead the Iranian nation from their chosen path. It also hoped that Russia could free itself from the "myths of the U.S." because it is the only way for revival of the spiritual and national values of the Russians.

Commentary Criticizes Jordan-Israel Agreement

NC1810222594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 18 Oct 94

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn and Yitzhaq Rabin initialed a draft peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in Amman yesterday. Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Rabin earlier put the final touches to this agreement. The final agreement is expected to be signed at the Israeli-Jordanian border during a special ceremony in which U.S. President Bill Clinton, King Husayn, and Rabin may participate late next week. A timetable is also being worked out to later normalize ties between Amman and Tel Aviv. In a subsequent development, Zionist sources said that the Israeli Knesset at its latest session stressed its support for the Israeli-Jordanian relations. President Clinton expressed his deep satisfaction with this development.

At the joint news conference held by King Husayn and Rabin, King Husayn said that his country had regained its usurped rights regarding water distribution and the border's demarcation. However, this statement is not consistent with developments, because the Zionist entity agreed to return the territory Jordan demanded only after it signed the final peace treaty stipulating that the Jordanian Government agrees to lease these areas to Israel. It is obvious that the Zionist entity is making marginal concessions in order to drag Jordan onto the path which Egypt pursued, leading it to sign the treasonous Camp David agreement in 1977. That ill-omened agreement represented the first crushing blow to the unity of Arab ranks. Since that date, Israel has concentrated on taking on the Arab parties one by one to reach separate solutions that guarantee the attainment of the Zionist goals.

Israel's golden opportunity arose with the start of the Arab- Israeli talks in Madrid in October in 1991. In the past three years, the Zionist entity succeeded first in entrapping the PLO. 'Arafat signed the Gaza-Jericho agreement with Yitzhaq Rabin. Israel then took on Jordan, and King Husayn signed an agreement ending the state of war with the usurper entity with Rabin in Washington some time ago. Thus, the way was paved for political and economic ties between them.

The capitulationist process is continuing. At any rate, no one can ignore the fact that Egypt, which signed the first peace agreement with Israel, has failed to advance its political agreement with Israel from the official level to the popular one or to the man in the street despite the passage of 15 years since that peace was signed. Jordan also will certainly fail in this respect. Signs form the Jordanian domestic situation affirm this. The Jordanian man in the street is brooding in rejection and denunciation of the latest agreement and the capitulatory process. The domestic opposition circles comprise various Islamic and popular forces, organizations, and political parties. Circles opposed to the captulationist process believe that this process gives the usurper Zionist entity a legal cover that threatens the goals of the oppressed Palestinian people and the entire Arab and Islamic nation.

Legality of Jordan-Israel Accord Questioned

NC1910090694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 19 Oct 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] Even though the text of the recent compromise between Jordan and the Zionist regime has not been disseminated so far, opposition to it continues to mount. This opposition is not limited to that group of countries, factions, and parties who are opposed to the principle of compromise and official recognition of the despotic regime. It also includes those who favor the compromise.

Political analysts believe that the extensive opposition by Syria, Lebanon, and even the PLO to this agreement stems from some major factors: First, the Zionist regime has been able—with the concurrence of Jordan—to legitimize its usurpation of some parts of that country. In other words, the compromise between the Zionist regime and Jordan is not in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242, which was the basis of the Madrid talks three years ago.

Jordan ignored the territories that were occupied in the war in 1346 [year beginning 21 March 1967] by the Zionist regime and has become party to a compromise, the ceiling of which is far below what was envisioned within the framework of the Madrid talks. In addition, the Jordan agreement envisages leasing those territories that are to be returned to it. This means that the current situation on Jordan's border with the Zionist regime will continue more or less, and Jordan will only receive an amount of money in the observance of this compromise.

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This situation has elicited the vehement objection of Syria and Lebanon because it will create a precedent for incorrect bases in the region and in the culture of the usurpers, which will only result in greater audacity by the Zionist regime and will heighten motivation for the occupation of the territories of others.

The second factor that has aroused opposition against the compromise between Jordan and the Zionist regime is Amman's cooperation with the Tel Aviv regime's instigatory proposals and plans. Jordan's concurrence on receiving the territories on the West Bank that belong to the Palestinians instead of the usurped Jordanian territories questions Amman's sense of responsibility with regard to the seditious plans of the Zionist regime.

In other words, by this agreement, Jordan has taken an action due to which it would not be too farfetched that on the basis of this trend, the Zionist regime may offer south Lebanon instead of the Golan Heights to Syria.

Another reason for the opposition to the Amman-Tel Aviv compromise is that it is at the cost of a comprehensive solution for the conflict between the Arab countries and the Zionist regime which would ensure the rights of the Jordanian people and their relation to the Palestinian issue. The net result will be nothing but a dichotomy in the Arab world to the benefit of the Zionist regime.

Radio: Israel Accord To Create 'Problems' for Husayn

LD1810175194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman and Tel Aviv leaders signed the draft of a final peace treaty in the presence of the Zionist regime prime minister and foreign minister in Amman on Monday, October the 17th. [passage omitted]

In a joint press conference with Yitzhak Rabin, King Husayn said that his country has achieved all the lost rights, especially in connection with the border demarcation and division of water. However, the fact is that the Zionist regime has only agreed to return the regions of dispute to Jordan on the condition that the said regions remain in the hands of the Zionist regime on loan after the signing of the peace agreement.

According to political observers, the major aim of the Israeli officials in giving limited concessions to Jordan is to drag the Amman government on the same path that the Egyptian regime treaded following the signing of the shameful Camp David agreement. [passage omitted]

Basically, it is since then [Camp David] that the Israeli officials have tried to drag other countries toward the same path by offering bilateral agreements to each of the Arab sides in the Middle East. As a matter of fact, the negotiations that began in October 1991 provided Israel appropriate time by establishing ties with the Arab countries. During the past two years, first the PLO leaders moved in that path of having a compromise with the Zionist regime, and then the Jordanians became the focus of the Israeli attention.

As a result of this, the signing of the Washington agreement on ending the 46 years of state of war took place, providing the ground for the establishment of full political and economic ties. But the point to ponder is that Egypt, the first country to step on the path of compromise, failed to transform the agreements with Israel from the political level to the level of its people. Jordan, too, will definitely fail in this regard.

This is so because under the present conditions, Jordan is witnessing a widespread wave of popular protests, and protests by the Islamic groups opposed to the trend of compromise. The opposition is assuming escalating dimensions with the passage of each day and will undoubtedly create substantial problems for King Husayn's government, since opposition groups believe that the present situation in Middle East is tantamount to legitimizing the usurping presence of Israel in the region. And this is what is against the aspirations of the liberation of Palestine.

Cultural, Scientific Accord Reached With France

LD1810173294 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 18, IRNA—Iran's Health Ministry and French Foreign Ministry's Department for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Relations here Tuesday agreed to cooperate in scientific, technical and medical fields.

The agreement was reached between Deputy Health Minister for Medical Students Affairs, Dr. Baqer Larijani, and the visiting director general of the department, Jean David Leuitte.

Discussing situation of Iranian medical students in France, the two officials agreed that a number of French university lecturers to be invited to scientific seminars in Iran.

According to the agreement, Iranian specialists are to take up further studies in France both in long and short term specialized and fellowship courses.

The agreement also calls for setting up a specialized French language center at the France Embassy in Tehran for specialists who wish to follow up their education in France. It also envisages granting scholarships by Paris government to the Iranian specialist in basic sciences.

Within the framework of the agreement three French lecturers and specialists in medical ethics, urology and cardiologists are to visit Iran in the near future.

Leuitte also invited Iran's Health Minister, Alireza Marandi to visit Paris.

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Commerce Minister Explains Price Increases

LD1810122094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At today's open session of the Majles, Mr. Yahya ol-Eshaq, commerce minister, answered a question by the deputy for Torqabeh and Chenaran concerning the reasons behind the rise in the prices of essential commodities and the outcome of price tag requirements. Mr. ol-Eshaq emphasized the need for dealing decisively with the issue of prices, as well as the need for careful control and supervision of prices and for combating surcharging. He said: All measures taken including the requirement that goods should carry price tags, have been undertaken towards this very purpose.

The commerce minister said: The headquarters for regulating the market [setad-e tanzim-e bazar] was set up precisely in order to coordinate efforts and confront offenders effectively through a strong organization.

He also said some limitations in imports aimed at protecting domestic production, changes in the rate of exchange, changes in the price of commodities on the international market, the performance of the banking system, and increase in the cost of imports all contributed to increase the price of goods—notably the price of sugar and vegetable oil. He expressed the hope that planning and the steps already taken would lead to a fall in the price of these goods.

The commerce minister also called for the cooperation and coordinated efforts of Majles deputies in confronting high prices and surcharging. He added: The Majles should pave the way for the implementation of these responsibilities. [passage omitted]

Regional Council Discusses West Country Security

LD1810184194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council for the Special Provision of the West Country [shura-ye ta'min-e vizhe-he gharb-e keshvar] held a session this morning, chaired by the interior minister and the commander of the Law Enforcement Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and attended by all the members and the military and law enforcement commanders and governors-general of Kordestan, Kermanshah, and Western Azarbayjan.

According to a Central News Unit report, a report was submitted at the session on the latest news and information on the west country and making an all-round effort to increase security in the region was discussed.

It was announced: Considering the readiness of all the forces and the extensive presence of the people on the scene, security in the region has improved compared with previous years.

At the session, considering the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region and the latest developments in northern Iraq and the country's western borders, the mobilizing of all the facilities and all the forces, precise planning to establish better and more acceptable security and the implementing of projects and closing borders were given serious emphasis.

* 'Adeli Estimates Debt at 18-19 Billion Pounds

95LA0006D Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Sep 94 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] (IRNA)—Dr. 'Adeli, in an exclusive interview with the London weekly publication PETROLEUM ARGUS, spoke optimistically about Iran's economic future and the development plan in the next five years. He said: If the nation's nonoil exports continue to increase as they have been increasing, it will be realistic to hope for growth of five percent real and effective growth in GNP.

In its report this reputable petroleum publication said that Iran has succeeded in rescheduling more than 70 percent of its 7.5 billion pounds in short-term debt, and the government is in the process of reaching agreement with its foreign debtors for the 2 to 3 billion pounds in remaining debt.

In this interview the chief of the Central Bank discussed Iran's total debts, which is 18 to 19 billion pounds, and said that half of this figure is long-term debt.

He also discussed the subsequent phases of rescheduling foreign debt, which are to take place over the next two years. He said: The Central Bank is committed to repaying such loans, and in view of the fact that the government's annual commitments will be no greater than 10 percent of its foreign revenues, there is no place for anxiety of any kind about this bank fulfilling its commitments.

In this interview Mr. 'Adeli said that the existing financial problems are due to the excessive cost of the nation's imports. He said: The government has now gotten control of this problem. Last year imports decreased 17 percent, dropping to 19 billion pounds.

He predicted that within the next two years there will be another decrease of 17 to 20 percent in the volume of Iran's imports.

In this interview he added: In view of the changes that have been made in the foreign exchange rate and also the greater inclination of importers to buy domestic products, the adjustment in economic conditions is taking place naturally. According to him, among the prominent examples of this change in procedure during the government's First Five-Year Plan is the 50-percent reduction in steel imports to 1 million tons per year, and also the reduction in petrochemical imports from $4 billion to $300 million per year.

Dr. 'Adeli regarded the successes from 750 million pounds to 4 billion pounds last year [as published] and predicted that this year this figure will increase to 5 million pounds.

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Based on this report, he declined to express a view on the future of Iran's oil exports, but he predicted that if the price of North Sea oil is between $18 and $20 per barrel, conditions will be satisfactory for oil-producing nations, and that this price level will be in line with the economic growth in the advanced Western consumer nations.

He said the cutoff of government subsidies, especially in the area of energy and fuel, is unavoidable in the next five years, but he expressed confidence that this will be done gradually.

Elsewhere in this interview Dr. 'Adeli discussed the government's policy to reduce and eliminate government borrowing from the Central Bank. He said: Last year loans given to government organizations and bodies came to 2 trillion rials, which is comparable to the figures for previous years.

He predicted that the volume of these loans will decline in the coming years.

* New Government Appointments Announced

95LA0006G Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 24 Aug 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] On the recommendation of the foreign minister and with the approval of the president of the Republic, Javad Ansari and Seyyed Mohammad Sadri-Taba'i were appointed as Iran's special ambassador and fully authorized representative in Brunei and Romania.

In separate decrees from the minister of culture and Islamic guidance, Abol-Qasem Talebi and Mohammad Ebrahim Ansari-Lari were appointed as consultant to the minister on visual media affairs and secretary of the Ministry Policy Council, respectively.

In an order issued by Engineer Yazdanpenah, chairman of the board of directors and executive director of the Kish Free Trade Zone Organization, Engineer 'Alireza Mokhtari was appointed as this organization's executive deputy director.

* More Appointments Announced

95LA0006I Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 31 Aug 94 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Hasan Habibi, first vice president of the Republic and chief of the Iran Teacher Colleges Board of Trustees, appointed Reza Maknun as secretary of this board.

The minister of justice issued an order appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorbani as his deputy minister for coordination and communications.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Rahimian, the vice regent's representative and supervisor of the Martyr Foundation, appointed Islami-Purian as this foundation's general manager of financial affairs.

* 'Second Exclusive' Iran Exhibit Opens in Armenia

95LA0006E Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] (IRNA)—The second exclusive Islamic Republic of Iran exposition opened Thursday afternoon in Yerevan in ceremonies attended by the vice president of the republic, high-ranking officials, and a large group of various classes of people from Armenia.

Gagik Arutyunyan, Armenia's vice president of the republic, in a speech at the exposition's opening ceremonies, discussed the good and neighborly relations between the nation of Iran and Armenia and expressed the hope that this exposition will be a step towards developing relations and economic and commercial cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Armenia.

Mr. Ebrahim Bahadarati, the Islamic Republic of Iran's deputy minister of commerce, also announced in a speech that in this exposition, which will continue for 10 days, 150 types of production, industrial, agricultural and service goods and more than 94 Iranian companies offering food products, clothing, carpets, electrical appliances and other things, will be on display.

He added: An effort will be made to make use of the nation's abundant economic capabilities in this nation's commercial policies to strengthen commercial ties to all nations, especially neighbor nations.

Pakistan

New Round of Violence Claims 23 Lives in Karachi

BK1810130594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 18 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, Oct 18 (AFP)—Four more bodies were brought into Karachi hospitals Tuesday [18 October], bringing the death toll from rampant religious and ethnic violence over the last two days to 23, police sources said.

The latest outburst of violence continues a long and grisly tradition of ethnic, political and religious tension in the sprawling port city.

Most casualties occurred on Monday—five in a commando-style raid by unidentified gunmen on a congregation of Shiite Muslims, police and witnesses said.

Those killed were identified as workers of Tehrik Jafria Pakistan (TJP), a Shia organization which has been at loggerheads with a militant religious group from the majority Sunni community, which calls itself Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP).

Although the police did not directly accuse the SSP of the attack, militants from the two sides have been involved in tit-for-tat attacks throughout the country.

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Dozens of people demonstrated publicly here Tuesday to protest at the killing of the TJP workers, burning old tyres, throwing rocks at passing vehicles and setting a bus on fire.

In a separate incident, police found the mutilated bodies on Monday of three men believed to be members of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a party representing the large Urdu-speaking community here in Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's home province of Sindh.

The MQM, headed by its founder Altaf Hussain, who is in self-imposed exile in London, is accused by local Sindh speakers of trying to carve out a territorial domain for Mohajirs in the province.

MQM—the second largest and main opposition party in the Sindh regional assembly ruled by Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP)—has been a principal target of a two-year-old law-and-order campaign spearheaded by the army.

Its leaders face charges including murder and torture of opponents.

The allegations are denied by the MQM leadership, which says the Mohajirs are being denied their share of government jobs and other rights.

But a running feud between MQM and a splinter group calling itself MQM-Haqiqi is said to be a major factor contributing to spread of violence in Karachi.

Nine other people were also killed on Tuesday in different parts of the disturbed city, including two policemen who died at the hands of gunmen, who ambushed their car.

Karachi, which attracts a wide diversity of both Pakistanis and foreign immigrants in search of work, has become a hotbed of severe ethnic polarization and political and economic rivalry.

According to a survey published this week, some 1.5 million people from Bangladesh alone have been living in the city.

The city's population now stands at over 10 million, placing a severe strain on civic facilities.

Sharif Considers Leading Delegation to UN

BK1910043094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 19 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, leader of the opposition, has expressed readiness to consider the offer to lead Pakistan's delegation to the UN General Assembly if this would further the Kashmir cause. In a letter to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he said the Kashmir cause is very close to his heart, but the offer is late. He said he fully understands the need to focus the attention of the world community on the grave human rights violations by the Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. However, he wants some explanation from the government in this regard.

An official spokesman in Islamabad has said that the government will comment on response of the leader of the opposition to lead the Pakistan delegation to the UN General Assembly once the letter has been received and examined. He said the government has reiterated its invitation to the leader of the opposition in the best interest of forging a national consensus on Kashmir. The spokesman said the text that has been released to the press by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group, however, shows that the opposition leader is still not prepared to respond to a sincere and patriotic invitation without any conditions.

Editorial Views Comments by U.S. Official on Kashmir

BK1810104494 Karachi DAWN in English 18 Oct 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Who Is Deceiving Whom?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Robin Raphel, who, during her visit to India last April, had seriously questioned the validity of Kashmir's accession to India, has once again demonstrated her perspicacity about the ground realities in the occupied state. Following consultations with Indian officials in New Delhi last week, she questioned the wisdom of India planning to hold elections in the held state as part of a political strategy for an internal settlement there. On the basis of her own assessment of the situation in the resurgent territory, she believes that the proposed elections would not be fair, and that Washington would not regard the exercise as carrying much credibility. Giving no credence to the persistent Indian propaganda that the uprising now in its fifth year, had been instigated and sustained from outside, she maintained that the Kashmiri people were clearly unhappy with the political situation, which was what had pushed them into taking up arms against the Indian occupation force.

Ms Raphel was also critical of India's human rights record, something which the other day prompted 34 members of the US Congress to address a letter to President Clinton calling for international sanctions against India, including a cut-off of US assistance, and demanding a plebiscite in the held state in recognition of the Kashmiri people's right of self-determination. New Delhi must realise the grave consequences of its massive use of force in occupied Kashmir. There are indications that a group in the European Parliament may take up the question of the human rights situation in the occupied state in its next session beginning November. The Parliament has come to the conclusion that it could no longer remain indifferent to the happenings in the held state. Once the European Parliament adopts a resolution condemning India's abuse of human rights, the matter

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would go to the European Council, which may then use its influence against India's repressive measures in Kashmir.

New Delhi's plan to hold elections in occupied Kashmir does not have much support even among otherwise pro-India elements inside the occupied state. A former chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, recently told a TV network that the turnout in the proposed elections was likely to be poor and the so-called political process would, therefore, produce no positive results. The All Parties Hurriyet Conference (APHC), representing nearly 30 groups of freedom-fighters inside the held state, has already rejected the move as unacceptable. A veteran Kashmiri leader, Shabbir Ahmad Shah, who was recently released under pressure from international human rights groups, after 20 years' imprisonment in Jammu, was seen by New Delhi as a likely supporter of the so-called political process. He has, however, bluntly said that the polls would be an exercise in futility and that since the Kashmiri people had failed to secure their right of self-determination through peaceful means, they had no option but to resort to arms. There should be no doubt that if New Delhi went ahead with its plans for elections in the held state, under the shadow of bayonets, much blood would be shed.

Pakistan has been consistent in its stand that a solution to the Kashmir dispute could only be found through a process of peaceful negotiations in conformity with the relevant UN resolutions. Having the objective of a negotiated settlement in mind, Pakistan recently authorised a contact group of the Organisation of Islamic Conference to decide whether or not the Kashmir question should be raised at the on-going UN General Assembly session. Pakistan also offered to the UN Secretary-General to be the mediator and sponsor [of] "proximity talks" to find a way out of the impasse over Kashmir. True to pattern, New Delhi has rejected the offer, with no concern for the continuing threat to the peace and stability of the region. During the years that it has attempted to suppress the insurgency in Kashmir through brute force, New Delhi has only deepened the feeling of alienation among the Kashmiris. Any new move that bypasses the question of self-determination of the people of Kashmir simply would not work.

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